

Kindergarten

The writer told what the topic was, then drew and wrote about the topic.

The information is important to the topic.

Bulldogs are fat.

They have wrinkles.

They take a bath.

They like to eat.

My friend has one.

I love bulldogs!

Information Writing

The writer wrote about different aspects of the topic and included details she knew. She concluded with an ending.

Others can read the writing: there are spaces between words, letters for sounds, and capital letters to begin sentences.

*The student will likely do some of this through words and labels, and other parts through illustrations.

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The writer named a topic in the beginning, then teaches all about the topic.

Bulldogs

Bulldogs are the best kind of dog.

Walk Your Dog

Give your bulldog a walk so it gets exercise. Also, brush its hair and teeth so it stays pretty.

The writer told about the topic part by part.

Food

Bulldogs like different kinds of food. They like food from a can, biscuits and treats. Give your bulldog a treat when it is good.

The writer used commas in a list.

The writer included facts about the topic.

Bath

Bulldogs don't like to take baths. Keep your dog away from dirt or it might get sick. Bulldogs are the best.

The writer ended her sentences with punctuation marks.

Bulldogs

Bulldogs

The writer taught some important points about the topic.

I am going to tell you everything you need to know about the best dog ever. Bulldogs are the best kind of dog. My dog Lizzie is a bulldog. She has brown and white fur that is really short. She has a wrinkled face. She uses her nose to smell lots of things. Bulldogs are not too big and not too small.

The writer tried to interest readers at the beginning.

The writer used commas to tell the reader when to pause.

Take Care of Your Bulldog

You should walk your bulldog every day. For example, you need to make sure your bulldog gets lots of exercise. Another thing you need to do is brush its coat and its teeth to keep it looking nice.

The writer used connecting words, such as *another*.

The writer included facts, tips, and expert language to elaborate on her topic.

What Bulldogs Eat

Bulldogs eat many kinds of food, but you shouldn't feed them too much. They love special kinds of dog food. We feed our bulldog a special kind of food with a green can and biscuits. On the ad it says that if you feed your bulldog the wrong kind of food it could get tired or sick. Give your dog treats when it does what you want.

The writer organized her piece into parts, with each part addressing a different aspect of the main topic.

The writer used quotation marks to show what a person said and apostrophes in quotation marks.

Keeping Them Clean

Bulldogs need to stay clean but they don't like to take baths. My book about bulldogs says that if they aren't clean they could get fleas. "You need to wash him so he stays healthy" my dad says. After the bath they get really tired and they go to sleep. Bulldogs are the best dog ever!

The writer wrapped up the piece at the end with a concluding sentence.

Grade 3

Bulldogs

Introduction

Have you ever seen a dog whose face is so wrinkled it makes you laugh? That might be a bulldog. I am an expert on Bulldogs because I have one. I am going to tell you everything you need to know about Bulldogs.

The beginning helps readers become interested and ready to learn about the topic (in this instance, with an introduction to the subject and questions).

The writer grouped information into parts. The subtopics fit with the main topic and are predominately well organized.

What They Look Like

One fact about Bulldogs is that they have very unusual looks. They have a short, wide body and short legs. They can be different colors but the most common colors are tan, black, and white. The best part about the Bulldog's looks is its face. The Bulldog has a wrinkled looking face and a wide **jaw**. It looks like it is always sad! But don't worry, that's just its look. It has round black eyes and a short **muzzle**. The biggest Bulldogs weigh about 50 pounds.

The writer included facts, definitions, details, and explanations.

The writer used commas to help readers read with pauses where they are needed.

She also included expert words. In some instances, the writer not only included important facts, but explained them to the reader.

Bulldog Care

Bulldogs need to be taken care of. It is important for bulldogs to get plenty of exercise. They need to be walked at least once a day. Also, their fur, called the **coat**, can get dirty so they need to be brushed.

The writer used punctuation to fix run-on sentences.

The bulldog needs to eat good food in order to stay healthy. Bulldogs can get fat so it's important to feed them just the amount of food they need. Some kinds of food that are good for bulldogs are special dog food, biscuits, and mashed potatoes.

The writer used words to show sequence (*after*), and words to show information that doesn't fit (*but*).

Bulldogs need to take baths about once every month. My dad says, "You need to wash him so he stays healthy!" But just the bath isn't enough. After

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Grade 3 (continued)

The writer punctuated dialogue correctly, with commas and quotation marks.

the bath you have to clean around their wrinkles because the wrinkles can get dirty. Also they get really smelly!

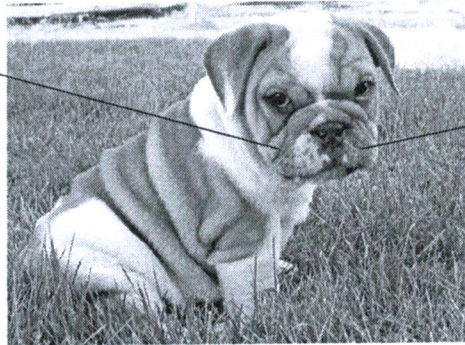
Bulldog Pets

One fact about bulldogs is that they are very tame. They are good to have around kids and they are good watchdogs. They may look like they are mean, but really they are not. For example, in my book there was a story about a Bulldog who saved his family by barking when there was a fire.

There are a few different kinds of Bulldogs, like the American Bulldog, English Bulldog, and French Bulldog. If you like dogs and you are thinking about getting one, I recommend a Bulldog.

The ending wraps up the piece and suggests to readers how they might respond.

jaw



muzzle

The writer included a picture with labels and a glossary.

Glossary

Coat: the bulldog's fur

Jaw: bones that hold the teeth

Muzzle: dog's mouth and nose

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English Bulldogs

The writer hooked readers with some surprising facts. The writer lets the reader know some of the things the piece will teach.

Introduction

Imagine an animal who is brave enough to fight a bull but who is very, very gentle. It's covered in wrinkles but cute as can be. This animal isn't from a made-up story. That's the English Bulldog! The English Bulldog is a great pet. It needs special care, and it has an interesting history. In this book, you will learn more about the English Bulldog.

The writer made deliberate word choices, such as including expert vocabulary.

Appearance

The English Bulldog is a wide, short dog. It has small legs and almost no neck. It comes in several different coat colors, like red, solid white, and light brown or tan. Some of them have spots. English Bulldogs have a black nose and dark eyes. It has small ears. In addition, it has a huge jaw that is shaped like a square. The **muzzle** is the mouth and nose of a dog. The English Bulldog's muzzle is wide and has many wrinkles. Most bulldogs weigh about 50 pounds.



English Bulldogs are very small when they are puppies.

The writer included a variety of facts, details, quotes, and ideas. This information comes from different sources—the writer's own experience and observations, as well as published texts.

Exercise and Health

According to the website bulldoginfor.com, the site says, "The English Bulldog needs to be walked regularly to fulfill their canine instinct to migrate." **Canine** means dog. English Bulldogs need exercise. In addition, English Bulldogs have fur that is short and shiny and is called their **coat**. It doesn't shed too much. It needs to be brushed about once every day in order to keep its coat looking good. Also, it is important to clean its face and especially its wrinkles with a cloth. In my opinion, it isn't too hard to take care of the English Bulldog.

Top Tips for Choosing Bulldog Food

1. whole grains and vegetables
2. no chemicals or artificial colors
3. eat real meat and not fake meat

Diet

My book, *Bulldog Life*, says that you should feed your bulldog around the same time every day so that it knows when to eat. If they eat too much they can become **obese**, which means very fat. In addition, most people say to feed them natural food without yucky chemicals. Read the box on the side to find out more about good dog foods.

There are words to show sequence (*before*) and how parts connect (*for example, in addition*).

Having a Bulldog as a Pet

English Bulldogs make great pets and are very good around families. They can become like part of the family. For example, in my book there was a story about a brave Bulldog who saved his family by barking when a fire started in the kitchen. The dog

The information is grouped into sections and paragraphs. Headings tell what each section is about.

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smelled the smoke before anyone else and ran upstairs to warn the mom. She got the kids out just in time.

There are a few different kinds of Bulldogs, like the American Bulldog, English Bulldog, and French Bulldog. If you like dogs and you are thinking about getting one, I recommend the English Bulldog.

Bulldogs vs. German Shepherds

	Bulldogs	German Shepherds
• Personality	• Loyal, relaxed, not aggressive	• Can be aggressive but very smart
• Exercise	• Ok with just a few short walks	• Needs to run all the time
• Size	• Up to 55 pounds	• Up to 88 pounds
• Cleaning	• Not much shedding • Doesn't get too smelly	• Sheds all the time • Gets smelly

The writer made choices about organization, using a compare/contrast structure and including text boxes, illustrations/captions, a glossary, and a source list.

History of English Bulldogs

English Bulldogs have an interesting history. They got their name because they had to fight bulls! Some of them were hurt or even killed! But now there are laws to protect animals like the Bulldog. In my opinion, that is a very good thing.

Conclusion

English Bulldogs are amazing animals for many reasons. One reason is that with good care they can live a long time. In order to help your bulldog to live longer, make sure they get proper nutrition and rest. In addition, Bulldogs make great pets. To explain, they are wonderful with babies and they like to travel in cars. They don't bark a lot and are fun to be around. Everyone should consider getting an English Bulldog. If you want to know more information, you can go to bulldoginfo.com.

The writer took on a teaching tone by using the phrase *to explain*.

The writer used commas in complex sentences to make them clear.

Glossary

- Muzzle**—the mouth and nose area of a dog's face
- Canine**—having to do with dogs
- Coat**—a dog's fur
- Obese**—extremely overweight
- Aggressive**—mean or starting fights

The ending leaves readers with a final insight and suggests readers take action.

Sources

- Bulldoginfo.com
- Bulldog Life* by James Thomas

English Bulldogs

The writer teaches different aspects of the subject and includes different kinds of information, such as how-tos (in special care section), essays (in conclusion), and stories (in having a bulldog as a pet section).

The writer used commas to set off introductory parts.

There is a variety of information, such as examples, quotes, and details.

The writer used outside sources and gives credit to these sources.

Introduction

There are thousands of breeds of dogs in the world. Each has its own special characteristics and history. One in particular stands out from the rest. This dog has the face of a curmudgeon but the personality of a best friend. This special dog is the English Bulldog. Thousands of Americans own them. They came to America in the 17th century. Owning an English Bulldog is wonderful, but it needs special care because of the many health problems it has. Get ready to learn all about the history of English Bulldogs, the physical characteristics of English Bulldogs, and also to get some important tips on taking care of Bulldogs properly.

The introduction gets readers interested and lets them know what they will be learning about.

Physical Description

The English Bulldog is a medium-sized, **compact**, wide dog. It has short legs, which seem very short in comparison to its massive head. It has wrinkles around its **skull** and the top of its head made by extra skin that falls in folds. Imagine a wrinkled old person and you can imagine what the face of an English Bulldog looks like. There is a special word used to describe the color of many bulldogs, which is **brindle**. Brindle is when a dog has two colors, usually white and tan. Many bulldogs have this color. They can also come in white, black, red, and light brown. Bulldogs have wide, black noses and small eyes that seem to be very far apart from each other. In addition, they have enormous jaws that look dangerous but really are not. Their teeth have an **under bite**, which means the top teeth sort of hang over the lower teeth. The females weigh about 45 pounds and the males weigh about 50.

The writing is organized into a sequence of separate sections, which are highlighted with headings.

Each section is organized in a way that fits the genre (e.g., the special care how-to section is organized in sequence).

The writer used connecting words and phrases (*in addition*, *the reason . . . is . . .*)

Special Care

English Bulldogs need to be walked at least once per day. According to the site bulldoginfo.com, they have a "canine instinct to migrate," which means that because they are a dog, it is natural for them to want to move around. In addition, it is good for English Bulldogs to practice catching and chasing. The reason for this is that chasing is part of their instinct. It is important to use the same commands each time you play with a bulldog, that way it can learn.

Bulldogs have a short coat. It is only about ½ inch long. This means they don't have to be brushed all the time. Most books say to brush English Bulldogs about 3–4 times every week. This is usually enough to keep them looking glossy.

Bulldogs don't really need a special diet, but they do need to eat foods that are natural and it is good if they eat at the same time each day. The book *Bulldog Life*, by James Thomas, says that many bulldogs only need to eat once per day. The book also says you should read labels to find out about good ingredients. Stay away from ingredients with long names, like "propylene glycol." In my

The writer made deliberate word choices, such as using expert vocabulary.

The writer used a teaching voice and distinguishes between facts and opinion.

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opinion, this is a smart thing to do in general, whether feeding your pet or yourself!

Health Issues

This is a special section on some of the health problems that English Bulldogs sometimes have. Read the chart to find out more.

The writer made choices about how best to organize information, such as using charts and other text features to highlight information and teach readers.

Health Problem	What to Do
• Heat Stroke—getting too hot and panting	• Don't let them play too long in the heat, give them cool water right away
• Cherry Eye—a swollen gland in the eye	• Take them right to the vet when their eyes get really red
• Hip Dysplasia—hip doesn't fit in the joint	• Don't make them walk up stairs and get a low dog dish

Having a Bulldog as a Pet

There are many great reasons to have an English Bulldog as a pet. Many people love having them as part of the family. They can even save your life! In the book *Bulldog Life* he tells the story of one brave English Bulldog who saved his family's life. The mom was making dinner and went upstairs to check on the kids. Suddenly Hugo, the dog, smelled smoke. He ran into the kitchen and he saw the stove was on fire. He ran upstairs and barked and barked. The mom came down and saw the fire and put it out with a towel. Hugo saved the day!

But, there are some pros and cons to having a bulldog pet. Here are some of the pros and cons.

Pros and Cons of Owning a Bulldog

PROS

- They make great pets
- They are very loyal
- They have a good personality
- They are great with little kids and babies
- They make good watchdogs
- They are very adorable

CONS

- They drool a lot
- They have many health problems
- They only live 7–9 years
- They can't breathe very well
- They have bad gas
- They can be stubborn
- You have to clean their wrinkles

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History of English Bulldogs

There are a few different kinds of Bulldogs, like the American Bulldog, English Bulldog, and French Bulldog. The English Bulldog has a very interesting story. They were England around the time of 1630. They were really smart, strong, and tough dogs, so they were used to fight bulls! They had to guard bulls and chase them around to give them exercise. But this was dangerous for the dogs, so in the 19th century, there were laws passed that said this was **illegal**.

Conclusion

English Bulldogs are amazing animals. They have a fascinating history and an unusual appearance. They are a wonderful dog to have with a family. If you have a bulldog or you are thinking of getting one, I recommend you do some more research. You can check out bulldoginform.com or *Bulldog Life*. If you want to talk to other people that have English Bulldogs, you can check out the message board at bulldoginform.com/English. The English Bulldog is a peaceful, cute dog that deserves special care and attention.

In the conclusion, the writer restates the main points and offers a final insight for readers to consider. The writer cites sources used.



Brindle color coat

Wrinkles around skull

- English Bulldog Facts by the Numbers**
- Height: 12–16 inches
 - Cost: \$500–\$1200
 - Weight: 45–55 pounds
 - Average Life Span: 7–9 years
 - Litter Size: 4–5 Puppies

The writer cites sources used.

Sources

[WWW.bulldoginform.com](http://www.bulldoginform.com)
Bulldog Life by James Thomas (Schoolpub, 2009)
This is a Bulldog by Esther Gray (Schoolpub, 1976)

English Bulldogs

Introduction

I curl up on my sofa, getting ready to read my favorite book. My best friend, Lanie, jumps on the sofa next to me. She snuggles in, curls herself up, and starts to snore. It's very loud. This might sound very rude, but Lanie isn't a person. She's a six-year old English Bulldog. She has a tired, wrinkled face, that looks as if she is 100 years old. She shuffles around and makes lots of grunting sounds. Sometimes she refuses to budge when we are out walking. But she is loyal, kind, and never lets me down. Her breed is one that is very special and is a very popular pet with an interesting history. In this report, you will learn all about the appearance of bulldogs, how to care for them, what they are like as pets, and a bit about their history.

The writer conveyed ideas and information about the topic. There are essays (being a bulldog owner section), explanations, stories (health and bulldog owner sections), and procedural passages (caring for a bulldog).

The introduction hooks readers with a significant anecdote. The writer lets the reader know how the passage will unfold.

Appearance

The English Bulldog is considered a compact dog, which means it has a short, smooth coat. A characteristic that all bulldogs share is a wide head and shoulders. They also have a big **prognathism**, which is where its jaw comes out from its head. Its eyebrows are like thick folds of skin, and it has small black eyes. These small eyes and eyebrows with folds make it seem like it's angry, but it's usually not. Some of them, like Lanie, have what is called an **underbite**, which means its bottom teeth stick out.



Bulldog underbite

The writer used parentheses to define domain-specific vocabulary for readers.

There are several colors that bulldogs come in. Some of them are common names, like red and white. And some are special names, like **brindle** (mixed colors and stripes), **fawn** (a kind of light brown), and **piebald** (black and white spots).

The writer used subheadings to separate sections of information.

Bulldogs are short but very heavy. The smallest are about 35 pounds, and the biggest males can be up to 55.

Caring for a Bulldog

All species require exercise to be healthy, and bulldogs are no different. If they aren't walked at least two times every day, they tend to become dangerously overweight. They don't usually move much on their own, consequently their owners have to make them move. According to Inforpedia.org, if they become too fat, they might start to get heart problems. In addition to walking bulldogs, owners can keep them sharp by practicing ball-handling skills with them. In my opinion, bulldogs are smarter than some often think and they can learn a few commands, even if they don't always want to chase a ball.

The writer used transition words to show relationships between information and ideas (*in addition*, *despite*) and to help readers understand how different bits of information fit together.

Despite their short coats, bulldogs do shed. They should be brushed often so that they don't shed as much. Esther Gray's book, called *This Is a Bulldog*, explains how to properly **groom** a bulldog. To brush a bulldog, begin at the top of its head, called its **crown**,

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Grade 6 (continued)

and move in long strokes across its back. Then, brush its legs and underbelly. But be careful when brushing the underbelly because that part can hurt the dog. Additionally, you need to clean the folds of their skin every day. These can get infected if they are too dirty.

The writer used transitions and topic sentences to highlight main points. There are multiple paragraphs in each section.

Balanced nutrition is essential for a bulldog. It has to have the right proportion of vitamins and water, just like people. Most experts, like James Thomas, who wrote *Bulldog Life*, agree that feeding bulldogs too often is not necessary. In fact, feeding them too often can lead to problems, and will train them to be hungry all the time. The book says, "A well-trained bulldog does not beg for food. If bulldogs are fed constantly, especially from the table, they will learn bad habits and will begin to beg. Also, they will be in danger of becoming overweight from eating too much." (p. 56)

Health Concerns

No dog owner wants to think about their dog getting sick, but unfortunately it can happen. Bulldogs don't live forever, only about 8–12 years. So owners should keep their dogs as healthy as possible to help them live as long as they can.

The writer used comparisons, analogies, and images to make the writing interesting.

According to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, 73.9% of bulldogs have **hip dysplasia**. This is a problem where the hip gets out of joint. To add on, more bulldogs have this problem than any other dog breed.

The writer's subject is focused, and there is a variety of rich information.

Another common illness is cherry eye. This is caused by a swollen gland in a bulldog's eye. If this happens, most vets say to take the dog to be looked at right away. Once Lanie had Cherry eye, and her eye swelled up like a small balloon. We all felt awful for her. But when she got the medicine, she was much better.

The writer made choices about how best to organize information, sequencing information within sections in a way that teaches and engages readers. She sometimes used text features to do this, as well.

Bulldogs can also get heart problems. One way this gets worse if they are out in the heat. Heat stroke is a serious health concern for bulldogs. If a bulldog starts **panting** heavily, it's best to get them to a cool place and give them water immediately.

The writer used outside sources and gives credit to these sources both in the text and in a bibliography.

Being a Bulldog Owner

Bulldogs are wonderful, loyal pets. Some say there are cons to owning a bulldog, such as that they don't live very long and that they must be cleaned often, and that they can be stubborn. As Mr. Thomas says in his book on page 75, they have the worst **flatulence** (gas) of any dog breed. But there are many more pros than cons. First of all, they are adorable. No one can resist their funny looking wrinkles and the way they waddle. Also, they are safe around kids, even babies. To illustrate this, my little sister was only a baby when we got my bulldog. Once, my sister Emmie was crawling across the living room. She went over to Lanie's food dish and started splashing around in her water. Lanie went over and gave her a look. She didn't like that Emmie was in her water. But she didn't even bark. She just stood there and watched Emmie. Some other dogs might have bitten the baby.

The writer chose words carefully, including domain-specific vocabulary and explaining what these words mean.

She maintained a teaching tone throughout the piece.

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History of English Bulldogs

Out of all the bulldog types, American, English, and French, in my opinion the English has the best history. In the early 1600s, they were bred to be strong, tough, and fierce. They were used in something called **bull-baiting**, which is to fight bulls (www.bulldoginfor.com). People would watch bulldogs chase bulls around for fun. They would bet on which dog would grab a bull by the nose and push the bull to the ground. Many dogs would die or become seriously hurt at these events because they were stomped on or trampled, or poked by the bulls. Consequently, this became illegal.



An older kind of bulldog used to fight bulls

A Chart: Characteristics of Bulldogs Created by Breeding

- Short legs so the bull couldn't get the dog's legs with its horns
- Large jaws, so the dog could grab the bull and hold on to its nose
- A larger and heavier body to fight big bulls
- A muzzle that curved up so the dog could breathe while it grabbed the bull's nose
- Wrinkles so blood from the bull wouldn't get into the dog's eyes

In the conclusion, the writer offered final insights and implications for the reader to consider.

Conclusion

English Bulldogs are historical, beautiful, interesting animals. They need proper care and maintenance, but on the other hand they can be very loyal and gentle. It's always a good idea to see if you can adopt one from a rescue center. These are places where animals go if they are abandoned or treated badly by their owners. But if there isn't a bulldog there, you can visit your local pet shop. One day, maybe you will have a best friend like Lanie, curled up at your feet and snoring while you read a great book.

Bibliography

WWW.bulldoginfor.com

Gray, Esther. (1976) *This is a Bulldog*. (Schoolpub)

Thomas, James. (2009) *Bulldog Life*. (Schoolpub)