

## Writing a discursive essay: Model essay

### The advantages and disadvantages of keeping wild animals in zoos

Zoos are having to work harder for funding and many are going out of business because they cannot afford to maintain the animals or the zoo habitats in which the animals live. Fewer people are going to zoos because they don't like to see animals in captivity. The issue of whether or not zoos should exist is once again a hot topic. This essay explores some of the arguments for and then against keeping animals in zoos and provides a conclusion to offer my own view on the issue.

One argument in favour of zoos is that they bring people and animals together. Zoos educate the public and develop an appreciation of wild animals. This exposure and education motivates people to protect animals.

Another argument in favour of zoos is that they save endangered species by bringing them into a safe environment, where they are protected from poachers, habitat loss, starvation and predators. This **MUST** be a good reason for keeping wild animals in zoos!

Perhaps the most important argument in favour of zoos is that many of them have breeding programs for endangered species. In the wild, endangered species might have trouble finding mates and would soon become extinct without the help of zoos.

From the above arguments it is clear that there are some important advantages to keeping wild animals in zoos. However there are also several disadvantages.

One argument against zoos is the fact that animals in captivity suffer from stress and boredom. It is a well known fact that animals that live in zoos have much shorter lives. The confinement in small enclosures leads to poor mental and physical health in zoo animals.

Another argument against zoos is that, far from helping endangered species, actually removing individuals from the wild to keep in zoos further endangers, rather than protects the species because the remaining individuals in the wild will have more difficulty finding mates. Surely many would oppose keeping animals in zoos just for this very reason!

A final argument against zoos is that they are often located in highly populated areas. Animals have been known to escape their enclosures, endangering the local population as well as themselves.

In conclusion there are clearly good reasons both for and against keeping wild animals in zoos. The arguments against are certainly very serious and I know that I personally do not like to see wild animals kept in cages, however, on balance I believe that the advantages of keeping wild animals in zoos outweigh the disadvantages. It is important for people, particularly children to see and be educated about wild animals so that they can appreciate them and be motivated to protect them. Breeding programs in zoos provide hope for the future so that endangered species can be protected and future generations of human beings can continue to enjoy the wonders of nature. It is our responsibility to protect wild animals and my belief is that zoos are mainly doing just that.

**Arguments taken from a website written by Doris Lin:** 'Arguments For and Against Zoos By [Doris Lin](http://animalrights.about.com/od/animalsinentertainment/a/Arguments-For-And-Against-Zoos.htm), About.com Guide': <http://animalrights.about.com/od/animalsinentertainment/a/Arguments-For-And-Against-Zoos.htm>

