

Responsible Dog Ownership

To own a dog is serious business. Parents may think they're being nice when they bring that puppy home for Christmas, but the average dog lives for 14 years (Pets.com) and deserves to be loved and well cared for. If the dog will be ignored, the parents are actually teaching their kids a bad lesson. It is wrong to neglect or mistreat pets. Pet ownership is a choice and brings with it great responsibility. **[The last sentence is the thesis].**

Dogs are loving creatures that deserve respect and care. **[Topic sentence]** According to Susan Wright, head veterinarian at the National Canine Institute, dogs are empathetic to their owners. "They can sense when a person is depressed or angry," Wright says. It is beneficial to humans to have a dog for a pet. A study conducted by the Wisconsin Association of Pet Owners showed that people who own pets are ten times less likely than the general population to engage in violent domestic behavior. In other words, dogs help keep us calm. It's been said that dogs are man's best friend. This means that they have the ability to comfort us when we need it. "Dogs don't judge," Wright says, "and they love us even if we neglect them." However, knowing that they love us unconditionally is no excuse for mistreatment. **[Transition sentence to next body paragraph].**

Comment [SFSD1]: I have given the person's name and the source of her information in the sentence. This establishes her credibility.

Comment [SFSD2]: Again, in the sentence, I have said where the information is coming from. This is often a much better strategy than simply putting (Wisconsin Association of Pet Owners) in parentheses at the end of the sentence because it gives the statistic (in this case) a source/owner.

Comment [SFSD3]: Once I've given the full name of a source (a person), I use only his/her last name whenever I mention him/her again.

You would have more body paragraphs.

[Conclusion] Any pet owner who has had to watch an aged pet suffer with ill health and eventually die knows how hard it is. "When Sarge died," Amy Rogers wrote in her Blog, *A Dog's Day*, "I cried. It took weeks for me to get over being sad all the time. I still cry when I see another Golden Retriever, but I know he's not suffering any more." Pets truly become part of the family, or at least they should, and every dog deserves to be loved in the same way Sarge was. It is a big responsibility to care for a dog and one that must not be taken lightly. **[Paraphrased thesis]** A well cared for dog will be a loyal friend for many years. **[This conclusion gives an emotional story to make the final point more poignant. You want to leave your reader with a strong impression].**

Comment [SFSD4]: It is not typical to cite a source in the conclusion, but in this case, it helped me make my point better. She said what I couldn't say as well, so I quoted her. Note that I don't have to put anything in parentheses following the sentence because all of the information is embedded in the sentence.

Disclaimer: this sample includes fictional references and is meant to be a model for how to integrate source material into an essay. The model is obviously not about a historical event, either. Also, this "essay" has only one body paragraph. Your Historical Overview needs at least three body paragraphs. See the directions. Also, this essay is formatted to replicate what you would publish on the Web, in single spaced block paragraphs.

My list of sources for this essay would look like the following:

Works Cited

Rogers, Amy. "Losing a Friend." Web log post. *A Dog's Day*. 21 May 2009. Web. 8 May 2010.

"That Christmas Puppy." *Pets.com*. 2007. Web. 11 May 2010.

Wisconsin Association of Pet Owners. *Benefits of Pet Ownership*. Madison: Wisconsin Association of Pet Owners, 2008. Print.

Wright, Susan. "Emotional Benefits of Pet Ownership." *Caring For Man's Best Friend*. National Canine Institute, 2009. Web. 2 May 2010.