

Better Arguments Answer Key

Sample Response

Prompt: Would you rather own a dog or a cat?

I would rather own a dog because they are loyal and active companions. Either a dog or a cat can be loving, but dogs encourage their owners to exercise and play outside. Neither animal is perfect since both need care and attention, but I prefer a dog's energy. Dogs also protect their homes and create strong bonds with their families.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Encourages students to apply **either** and **neither** in original writing while developing persuasive reasoning.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For struggling writers, provide sentence frames such as "I think either ____ or ____ would be better because..."
 - Challenge advanced students to include **both** words more than twice or to compare three choices.
- **Engagement Idea:** Turn this into a class debate-half the class argues one choice, the other argues the opposite, using **either/neither** accurately during discussion.
- **Extension Activity:** Have students peer review each other's paragraphs to highlight correct uses of **either** and **neither** and discuss why they fit grammatically.