



**MEAP Fall 2010**  
**Grade 4 Informational Writing**  
**Scoring Guides for Ideas,**  
**Organization, Style,**  
**and Conventions**





**MEAP Fall 2010**  
**Grade 4 Informational Writing**  
**Ideas Scoring Guide**



## INFORMATIONAL WRITING

### DIRECTIONS:

In this part, you will be asked to write an informational response in which you compare two topics. When writing to make comparisons, you may consider how two things are alike, how they are different, or both. Your audience will be interested adults.

You must write your response on the lines in Day , Part of your **Answer Document** with a No. 2 pencil. If you erase, be sure to erase completely. You may underline, highlight or write in this booklet to help you, but nothing in this test booklet will be scored. No additional paper may be used.

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Turn the page and follow along as I read the prompt and checklist to you.

## WRITING TO MAKE COMPARISONS

Animals are interesting. Think about two animals. What do they look like? Where do they live? What do they eat? What else do you know about them? Compare these two animals.

### CHECKLIST

**DIRECTIONS:** Use this checklist after you have completed your response to revise and edit your writing.

- Did I stay focused on the topic and the task?
- Did I develop my ideas with details and examples?
- Did I use logical order so my writing makes sense?
- Did I use a variety of words, phrases, and sentences?
- Did I spell, capitalize, and punctuate correctly?

**Michigan Educational Assessment Program**  
Analytic Rubric  
Informational Writing  
Grades 4 and 7

	0	1	2	3
Ideas (points doubled)	Ideas are not focused on the task and/or are undeveloped.	Ideas are minimally focused on the task with limited details and examples.	Ideas are somewhat focused on the task and are developed with some details and examples.	Ideas are clearly focused on the task and are thoroughly developed with relevant details and examples.
Organization	No organization evident.	Organization and connections between ideas are weak.	Organization and connections between ideas are logical.	Organization and connections between ideas are clear, logical and appropriate for the context.
Style	Ineffective use of language for the writer's purpose and audience.	Limited use of language, including lack of variety in word choice and sentences, may hinder the effectiveness of the writer's purpose and audience.	Adequate command of language, including accurate word choice and clear sentences, is effective for the writer's purpose and audience.	Command of language, including precise word choice and varied sentence structure, is highly effective for the writer's purpose and audience.
Conventions	Ineffective use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.	Limited use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level.	Adequate use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level.	Consistent, appropriate use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level.

Any condition code will result in a score of 0 for all traits:

- A Off-topic
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- D Insufficient to rate

\* Standard English is the form of English most widely accepted for writing in schools.

I have 3 dogs. 1 is a big dog 2 are puppies.  
The big dog is their dad but he ignores them  
sometimes. Their mom had to keep them  
for a month because they needed milk from  
their mom. It nice having three dogs.  
Because it's 3 times funner than having 1 dog.  
The puppies are a boy and girl. The boy name  
is lil' D because he's named after his dad D.  
The girl name is Diamond. Their fun  
to play with of cause because their puppies

**ANCHOR PAPER 1****Score Point: 0**

Instead of comparing two animals, this response consists of general information about the writer's dogs. It is not focused on the task of comparing two animals.

My favorite animal is a panther they have  
Black fur sharp teeth They  
could run 40 miles per  
hour. They could get up on a tall  
tree.

They are Big like a  
Tiger.

The panther is a cat and  
mammal.

The panther weighs 93 pounds.

They hunt for food like deers, people, almos  
all the animal.

**ANCHOR PAPER 2****Score Point: 0**

One sentence in this response compares two animals (They are big like a tiger). It is focused on the task but undeveloped.

title: Dogs and cats

Dogs and cats are both house pets. But some are strays.

Dogs and cats like different things. cats like fish, mice and milk.

Dogs like meat, bones and water. But they are both living things and nice pets.

**ANCHOR PAPER 3**

**Score Point: 1**

This response consists of brief, simple comparisons. It is minimally focused on the task with limited details and examples.

A cheat is a carnivore. The cheat  
live in the skan. A lain is a carnivore too. The  
lain all so live in the skan too. They  
will try to take eboth food. They  
will all so try to cill eboth.  
If you ask me a bot how nise  
I will say that none of them  
are nise. If I was you I would  
not go to the skan.

**ANCHOR PAPER 4****Score Point: 1**

This response is minimally focused on the task, presenting only four simple comparisons and no examples.

Some animals that are interesting to me are foxes and deer. Foxes and deer are the same by them both being incredibly fast. Another way is them both living in the same habitat - the forest. One last way they are the same is that they both are very intelligent on hunting. One way they are different are that deer can jump much, much higher than foxes. Also foxes are extremely easier to see. So those are the animals I am interested in.

**ANCHOR PAPER 5****Score Point: 1**

Several likenesses and two differences are presented but there is no development beyond these simple facts. Therefore, this response is minimally focused on the task.

frogs are wet and smooth have  
webbed feet and have a screen that  
protects its eyes when in water and are  
green. Both frog and toad have 4 legs  
a long tongue two eyes and long legs.  
A toad is dry, bumpy, brown, and a light  
color on its belly.

**ANCHOR PAPER 6****Score Point: 2**

This brief response lists enough points of simple comparison with a little extra development (screen that protects its eyes when in water) to be somewhat focused on the task.

I am going to compare two animals. The animals are a dog and a horses. Hope you enjoy it.

First I am going to tell you about how they're the same. The animals are both animals of course. A horses and a dog, both has four legs. Unless one of them brock a leg, then it will has three legs. Dogs and horses both run pritty fast.

Now I am going to tell you about what is different about horses and dogs. Horses are way bigger than dogs. But dogs are way smaller then horses. You can sit and ride horses, but you can't ride dogs. Sometimes dogs has different color than horses do. Horses has bigger food. Dogs has smaller food. Dogs need less water than horses do. But horses need more water than dogs do. Mostly horses run faster than dogs do. Horses need lost of energy to run fast. More than dogs do. Dogs has lost of energy

if you exerjis with them.

That was it. So I hope you can  
compar two thing, and tell about it. And  
hope you write alot about it. Thank you  
for you to read about my comparison story.

**ANCHOR PAPER 7**

**Score Point: 2**

Many simple comparisons provide enough detail to consider this response somewhat focused on the task.

Have you ever seen a cheetah? I have. A cheetah has black spots and it is orange. Did you know a cheetah is the fastest animal in the world. A cheetah is faster then ten bears. Some people say that a cheetah is not in the cat family but I say it is in the cat family. I can't remember what it eats. <sup>All cheetah</sup> lives <sup>in the forest</sup>. A penguin is black and white with a orange beak. A penguin eats mini squid fish and shrimp. Did you know a penguin is a bird that can't fly. <sup>fast</sup> but not least a penguin lives in the south pole.

**ANCHOR PAPER 8****Score Point: 2**

This response consists of a paragraph on each of two animals. There are enough parallel details (appearance of each, what each eats, where each lives) and sufficient further development to consider this to be somewhat focused on the task.

"Lions and horses, Horses and lions," <sup>They</sup> have a lot of things that are the same. Like they both have a mane, 4 legs, of course they both have a face, both can be brown or white. A lion has really sharp teeth, none like a horse which has flat dull teeth. So I want to tell you more about lions! Lions can be a couple different colors like: brown, white, orange, gold, and yellow. Lions live in Africa, in the Savannas in Africa (to be exact). Lions only eat meat like: water buffalo, <sup>buffalo,</sup> zebra, baby elephants, baby giraffes, gazelles, and wildabeastes.

Horses I love horses but not ridding them, ever sense I fell off and my sister landed on <sup>top of</sup> me, but I still love them!

Horses can be black, white, tan, brown, of all mixed together. They don't have very sharp teeth at all. So they only eat plants and grain, also hay.

Most horses live in barns, some are wild though. Some horses live in Stables.

**ANCHOR PAPER 9****Score Point: 3**

This response comparing lions and horses has enough detail and development to be clearly focused on the task.

Dogs, dogs have four feet. Most dogs that I've every really seen have tails. Some dogs don't get along with cats very well. Most wild dogs eat meat for example wolfs, coyoties, and highenas. A dog is usually more active than a cat. Both the dog and cat can smell better than humans. Also the dog and cat have claws. The cat is a little bit more picky about what it eats then a dog. Both cats and dogs can be scared. Also cats and dogs have babies. Some dogs and cats live in the wild. Bob cat live in the wild and stray cats also. A lot of cats have short ears and dogs can have long or short tails. Some dogs have clothes! Also dogs can swim in shallow water. Dogs can chase their tails. I've never in the history of my life seen a cat chase after it's tail. Cats can hiss or spit at something or some one that it doesn't like. There are also dogs that are stray. Some dogs or cats are blind. There are alley cats also. Cats and dogs come in all different sizes like big or small fat or skinny.

Usually when a cat or a dog is fat it's more lazy. I've heard that small dogs live longer than big dog and small dog have a higher barking pitch than a big dog. There are dogs that are mean and nice. Some people have hunting dogs. Some dogs are just for pets. Both cat and dog play with balls. Dog like bones to chew on. Some dogs like to chase mice like before I was adopted we had a dog who loved to chase it's toy mouse!

**ANCHOR PAPER 10****Score Point: 3**

This response is clearly focused on the task and thoroughly developed with many details.

Anchor Paper 1	
Ideas	0
Organization	2
Style	1
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 6	
Ideas	2
Organization	1
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 2	
Ideas	0
Organization	1
Style	1
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 7	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 3	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	1
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 8	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 4	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 9	
Ideas	3
Organization	2
Style	3
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 5	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 10	
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Organization	1
Style	2
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**MEAP Fall 2010  
Grade 4 Informational Writing  
Organization Scoring Guide**



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these two dogs that I have I love them  
so much. And they I love me to  
like when I get home from school they  
well. Be jumping on to then when I  
go walk her to my friends house at 2:00.

**ANCHOR PAPER 1****Score Point: 0**

There is no connection between ideas in these randomly-ordered sentences. No organization is evident.

fish-bird the fish look like  
shark and the bird look like  
beautiful animal the bird live in  
the tree and the fish live  
in the water the bird eat  
worm and the fish eat  
worm too they brave  
oxygen and the bird  
have a wing and the fish  
have scales and they  
grow up from the egg.

and the bird can fly  
but the can't and the  
fish can swim but the  
bird not

**ANCHOR PAPER 2****Score Point: 1**

In this “back-and-forth” response (fish live...birds live, fish eat...birds eat), the organization and connections between ideas are weak.

My story is about cheaths and lions.  
I love cheaths and lions! First of all  
they both live in the jugles. There  
not veagtareen because they love  
meat so much. But cheaths are  
the fastest animals in the world!  
Oh and don't forget about the King  
of the animals the lions! Oh and  
there teeth are huge like vampiers  
fangs WOW! And there both form the  
cat family. See how much stuff  
about cheath and lions.

**ANCHOR PAPER 3****Score Point: 1**

The mini-introduction (My story is about...) provides a minimal attempt at organization, and the two sentences comparing both animals (...they both live in the jungle. They're not vegetarian) are weakly connected.

I am going to compare cats and dogs. Did you know that cats and dogs have great hearing senses? For an example if somebody tells them to run or fetch then they will do it, "and guess the good part is" They both have babbies but only the mommy puppy. Did you know that cats and dogs cross the street on there on that a little wired".

In plus they always be sloppy for wotace the cat and the dog messed up the whole house that howl, That's why I said they are sloppy. Did you know they both make sounds it is like meaw and ruff ruff.

They both play with pet toy's that's like on of there favorite thing's to and even playing with somebody. They also have shap claws, that happend to me me on I got scratched by a cat that hurted.

Out of all the stuff that I said this is the best on. They are really smart, "one time I saw this lady with a cat and a dog walking and she told them to sit at a stop light untill it goes green" Last but not least, they will

run away but they will be smart enough  
to come home. Are they smart enough? well I  
think they are smart, and that is my compar-  
ison for dogs and cats.

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**ANCHOR PAPER 4****Score Point: 1**

This response contains a lengthy list of random ideas about dogs and cats, exemplifying weak organization and weak connections between ideas.

I am going to compare a eagle to a Seagle.  
They are alike by both having wings and both can fly. Anoth way they are alike is they both can eat fish. Some eagle are boub but no seagle are bould. A eagle make a big sound but a Seagle beady make eney sound. Another way they are different is a Seagles wings are big but it don't move faster than a eagle.  
Seagle like to eat a big fat juice worm but a eagle don't like it.

**ANCHOR PAPER 5****Score Point: 2**

This short response is logically organized by grouping together the similarities of the two animals, then their differences.

I have a quarter horse name  
brandy. His fer color is brown  
and his mane is Black. A  
quarter horse is 4 Breds. He has  
a crack on his Left back hofe.  
He has that because he and  
his mother was in a burn and  
a tornatow hit the barn and  
it kild brands mom and he  
was still a live. So that's why  
he has a crak in his hofe. My  
MOM and Dad buy my brand he  
was in the house and he had a  
bow on his back. I loved him  
so much. Now he is a big horse  
Now. I ride him now. He is a  
good horse. He lives at my farm  
with a frend with him in the  
Pacher. I go see him averday.  
I have 4 ducks in the duck pen  
They have a pole and a house too

and They have a food Pane. I have  
3 boys and 1 girl. The 3 boys names  
are howy and dowy and Lowy and  
the girls name is hilde. They are happy.  
Hilde gives me huges and plays toge.  
I Tuch her and she runs and Tuchs  
me. she wags her thalltether all  
the time. She lays eggs a lot. When  
I take the egg the boys drop there  
becks open and quack and hilde  
just eats. and that's thais home.

**ANCHOR PAPER 6****Score Point: 2**

In this logically organized response the writer first develops a paragraph on a quarter horse, then develops one on ducks. Some ideas are organized into clusters within each paragraph (He has a crack...He has that because...So that's why he has a crack...She lays eggs a lot. When I take the egg...).

I am going to compare two animals. The animals are a dog and a horse. Hope you enjoy it.

First I am going to tell you about how they're the same. The animals are both animals of course. A horse and a dog, both has four legs. Unless one of them break a leg, then it will have three legs. Dogs and horses both run pretty fast.

Now I am going to tell you about what is different about horses and dogs. Horses are way bigger than dogs. But dogs are way smaller than horses. You can sit and ride horses, but you can't ride dogs. Sometimes dogs have different color than horses do. Horses have bigger food. Dogs have smaller food. Dogs need less water than horses do. But horses need more water than dogs do. Mostly horses run faster than dogs do. Horses need less of energy to run fast. More than dogs do. Dogs have less of energy

if you exerjis with them.  
That was it. So I hope you can  
compar two thing, and tell about it. And  
hope you write alot about it. Thank you  
for you to read about my comparison story.

**ANCHOR PAPER 7****Score Point: 2**

This response is an example of logical organization. The writer orders his response by explaining similarities first then differences. Transitions are used (First, Now I'm going to tell you) to let the reader know the plan.

A cheeth is yellow and Black dots and they are very fast the cheeth lives in South america and africa they eat a lot of animals deer, cow, horse and more the cheeth is the fastest animal ever it is faster than your car that is how fast the cheeth is.

The lion is all yellow and black in with its habitat lions live in South america and asia and africa they eat meat so they eat deer and cow and more it is cool to know that lions are kings of the animal world it is very cool.

**ANCHOR PAPER 8****Score Point: 2**

In this response a paragraph on cheetahs is followed by a paragraph on lions with parallel information on appearance, habitat, and diet. This format demonstrates logical organization.

I picked a rabbit and an owl because I am fascinated by them. A owl has wings and claws to help catch its prey. Also owls have no seeable ears and have wonderful feathers. And a rabbit has fear of different colors. Also a rabbit has ears that you can see. Rabbits hop insted of flying. Owls have <sup>two</sup> claws but rabbits have four legs insted. Owls have vary big eyes and rabbits have littler eyes.

Where do they live? That's a good thing to write about, don't you think? Well an owl lives in trees and in them. Also rabbits can live under the roots of trees. Owls are different in that way because owls live on top of tree and rabbits live under the trees. Also owls can live in holes in the ground.

Rabbits eat grass, carrots, serrtant flowers called marigolds.

and some eat leaves. Owls eat mice, snakes, and other meats that are available. Owls are carnivores and rabbits are herbivores.

Owls only come out at night and rabbits mostly come out in the day. Most people have rabbits instead of owls as pets. More people interact with rabbits than owls.

That is how the rabbit and owl are different.

**ANCHOR PAPER 9****Score Point: 3**

In this response an appropriate plan is evident: the organization and connections between ideas are clear and logical. After a brief introduction the response is divided into separate paragraphs comparing appearance, then habitat, and then diet.

This is about two different animals that we have to compare to learn more. So Cheetahs run really really fast. Also I think they are one of the fastest animals on earth. Another thing is, Cheetahs eat meat and growls a lot. But sometimes they growl because someone tries to take the meat that they have.

Now lets talk about dog and compare them. Dogs are definitely not as fast as a cheetah, but they're kind of fast. Like if a cheetah raced a dog a cheetah would lap the dog. In addition dogs eat kibble and dog treats. But dogs growl about a lot of thing even if its just because it wants to growl.

It's now time to say whats the same. Cheetahs and dogs both have fur. Also they both love to run. Even sometimes dogs and cheetahs both make noises when they don't like something or if they are scared.

So now you know something that are different and somethings that are same about dogs and cheetahs.

**ANCHOR PAPER 10**

**Score Point: 3**

The organization in this response is clear and logical. First, the response is divided into differences, then similarities. Then the writer uses transitional sentences (Now let's talk about dogs, It's now time to say what's the same) to make it easier for the reader to follow the plan.

Anchor Paper 1	
Ideas	0
Organization	0
Style	0
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 6	
Ideas	0
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 2	
Ideas	1
Organization	1
Style	1
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 7	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

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Ideas	2
Organization	1
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 8	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	1
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Anchor Paper 4	
Ideas	2
Organization	1
Style	2
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 9	
Ideas	3
Organization	3
Style	3
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 5	
Ideas	2
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Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 10	
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Organization	3
Style	2
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**MEAP Fall 2010**  
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**Style Scoring Guide**



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Grades 4 and 7

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animalsie Venana batandne  
animals eat meetandthat leve  
langer wenthay eat Mof Meeto

**ANCHOR PAPER 1**  
**Score Point: 0**

One brief run-on sentence represents ineffective use of language for the writer's purpose.

The first animal is a lion. The lions live in jungles sometime they live some where far then the jungles. Thises what they eat it is deer meat, they catch there by hunting food. The only things is lay around, hunt food and all that stuff. My second animal is the Deer they live in forest some in the wild. they eat grass and the thing they like to do is run and jump over thing. The thing they most like to do is run.

**ANCHOR PAPER 2****Score Point: 1**

This response demonstrates a limited use of language. It is composed of simple sentences and is further hindered by imprecise vocabulary (stuff, thing).

one has spots. The other one has gray hair.  
one lives in a house one lives in a  
jungle. one eats other animals. The other  
one eats birds, mice, rats, moles, toad, food  
in a bowl. one is <sup>filly</sup> fast. The other one  
can run and fast. They both have  
babies. There both a name. There  
heads look alike. There both cats.  
They both hunt. They both eat. There  
both soft. They both have a tail.  
There body looks the same,

ANCHOR PAPER 3

Score Point: 1

Limited use of language in this response is displayed by lack of variety in sentence structure and repetition of word choice (one...the other, etc.).

Bears and wolf the both eat little Animals. they both run fast and quick. they live in a cave or a forest. they both come in families. they both have baby's. and they both have habitats. They both look hairy and scary and they both hunt thier prey they eat little Animals, fish, bunny, coyotes, deers, fawn, birds, and berries they eat All of that. The diffrent is the Wolf dont stay Allon they come in packs. Daddy bears stay Allon to go hunt for mommy and baby. And bears are tall, tall, tall, and wolfs are meidum. wolf's have glowing eyes bears have regular eye's. And wolfs can run a litte faster then Bears. Bears are fat. Wolf are not the much OF a fat type. Bears can have 3 cub's and wolves can have four cubs that's the diffrence.

Bear's they hibernate and wolfs dont they dont sleep in the winter bears do. Bears wait intill it's summer time. Wolves they dont hibernate they can stand the cold. But bears cant. only snow bears do. Also bears gather food to eat thow the winter. Bears



The 2 animals I am describing are the Red Panda and Sea Otter. The first animal is the Red Panda. The Red Panda is the size of a fox. This animal has a burnt orange body and black feet with a white face. This animal likes to spend its free time in trees so sometimes it might be hard to spot them because some of them are black. The Red Panda lives in Asia, the last time I saw a Red Panda was at the Detroit Zoo. That's all I know about Red Pandas.

Now I'm am going to write about Sea Otters. Sea Otters live in water, this animal is 2ft tall. This animal is grey, white and brown. These animals live in the Pacific Ocean. Their diet is oysters and other tiny fish. These animals spend their free time on their backs.

These 2 animals are different is that one is a land animal and one is a sea animal.

**ANCHOR PAPER 5****Score Point: 2**

The writer uses clear sentences and some descriptive language (burnt orange body, size of a fox, tiny fish) to show an adequate command of language for the purpose.

The animals are a dog and a bunny. The diffrins is a bunny has long floppy ears a dog does not. Another diffrins is a dog is bigger than a bunny. The bunny and dog both live in and out side. The dog and bunny eat grass, and dog food. A bunny has long floppy ears and a short bushy tail with long back legs and short front legs. A dog has short ears and all the same kind of legs. They both have wet noses and tails.

**ANCHOR PAPER 6****Score Point: 2**

This short response demonstrates an adequate command of language by using a variety of descriptive and precise words (floppy ears, bushy tail, wet noses) suitable for the purpose.

Do you know anything about a munchak deer or a oreo cow? Well that is what I am writing about today. First I will tell you about a munchak deer! Munchak deer are the smallest deer in the world! A dad deer witch is called a buck stands about 3 feet tall! A mom deer witch is called a doe stands about 2 and a half feet tall! A Baby Witch is called a fawns stands 2 feet tall! munchak deer eat grass and grain! They live in the woods or on deer farms in Wyoming the state! They're feet are called hooves the dads grow a thing called Antlers on their head! They have spots on their sides! NOW I will tell you about a oreo cow! Oreo cows are a large animal. They eat hay, grain or even grass if they want to!

They live in barns and sometimes  
outside. Their feet are called hooves  
to! They are white and Black.  
The moms are called cows. The  
dads are called Bulls and they  
sometimes grow horns on their  
heads! Their babies are called  
calfs! Here's a tip If a cow  
runs at you I'd get out of  
there! And that is my story  
for today!

The End

**ANCHOR PAPER 7****Score Point: 2**

In this response, the writer attempts to involve the audience by addressing the reader directly (Do you know anything about a Munchak deer?...Now I will tell you about...). Additionally, the use of humor at the end of the response is effective and indicates an adequate command of language.

I am comparing my Hamster and my turtle. First what they both have in common are the turtle has sharp nails to crawl more firm so it does not tip over, And it has sharp teeth so it can shred it's food. Plus it looks like a rock because it puts all of it's body parts in it's shell. I also bought it a house so it lives with me. He eats the tiny liver from animals. Now my Hamster has sharp teeth and nails to so it can crack sunflower seeds and eat. He has long nails to climb. It looks like a ball because it eats alot. Mine lives in a cage with a wheel, food, deck, water, tube, and a comfy spot to sleep. Finally they eat a variety of food like Hamster chips, seeds, vetchable sticks and corn.

**ANCHOR PAPER 8****Score Point: 3**

This writer demonstrates a command of language by using varied sentence structure and a variety of precise words (crawl, shred, crack) that are effective for the intended purpose.

I am comparing an eel and a snake. But both of them can be pretty scary! I think snakes are pretty cool, because they can eat a whole cat with one big "gulp!"

Now you all know that a snake can bite. But an eel can sting. Snakes live on land, and eels swim. Once I saw a Michigan rattle snake swimming while I was fishing! I watched it slither in the water. That's what eels and snakes have in common, they both slither.

I almost forgot. Eels are one of my favorite animals. They are kind-of like snakes. But I don't think they would get along.

**ANCHOR PAPER 9****Score Point: 3**

In this response the writer uses precise words (gulp, slither, sting) and punctuation (!) is used for emphasis. Furthermore, the writer addresses the audience (Now you all know...) and infuses a little personal opinion (But I don't think...) in ways that seem natural, effective, and appropriate to the task.

Dogs like maltise yorkie's look like small little puppies. The white maltise yorkie is small and it does not grow that much, it stays small, but the black one is really hyper. It grows more than the white maltise yorkie, but it does not grow so much. It kind of has a gray beard when you look it's face. When the white maltise yorkie jumps and runs, it looks like a bunny with it's ears flying in the windy air. These two animals eat the same thing because they are the same type of dogs, but the black dog eats more than the white one. I also know that they like peanut butter if you put inside a ball. They will fight over the peanut butter, but I'm pretty sure the white maltise yorkie will quit because the white dog is tired and she worked so hard and probably she is going to fall asleep. They sleep for a short amount of time. It really likes to go outside. If you let the two dogs go outside, when you tell it to come back in it comes racing through the door because it is so cald. If you say sit to the black one it will

sit only if it is trained. The two maltise yorkie dogs are very special to me. They love to play with balls. They have hair not fur. If you play ball with it, it will get their saliva on the ball and when you throw the ball again your hands will have saliva and saliva is very slimy. The two dogs are very excited when someone walks in the door. They love to play with kids and adults. They are very kind and nice. If I had a dog like that I would love it. I'll bet you'll love it too!

**ANCHOR PAPER 10****Score Point: 3**

A command of language is evident in this response by the writer's use of a variety of sentence structures and descriptive phrases (ears flying in the windy air, racing through the door) that are effective for the audience and purpose.

Anchor Paper 1	
Ideas	0
Organization	0
Style	0
Conventions	0

Anchor Paper 6	
Ideas	2
Organization	1
Style	2
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 2	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	1
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 7	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 3	
Ideas	2
Organization	1
Style	1
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 8	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	3
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 4	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	1
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 9	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	3
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 5	
Ideas	3
Organization	3
Style	2
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 10	
Ideas	3
Organization	3
Style	3
Conventions	3



**MEAP Fall 2010**  
**Grade 4 Informational Writing**  
**Conventions Scoring Guide**



## INFORMATIONAL WRITING

### DIRECTIONS:

In this part, you will be asked to write an informational response in which you compare two topics. When writing to make comparisons, you may consider how two things are alike, how they are different, or both. Your audience will be interested adults.

You must write your response on the lines in Day , Part of your **Answer Document** with a No. 2 pencil. If you erase, be sure to erase completely. You may underline, highlight or write in this booklet to help you, but nothing in this test booklet will be scored. No additional paper may be used.

The Notes/Planning space may be used for planning and organizing your ideas. You may use the checklist on the next page to help you with your response.

You may **NOT** use any resource materials (such as dictionaries, grammar books, or spelling books) for this test.

Once you have reached the word **STOP** in your test booklet, do **NOT** go on to the next page. If you finish early, you may go back and check your work in Part of the test **ONLY**. Do **NOT** look at any other part of the test.

Turn the page and follow along as I read the prompt and checklist to you.

## WRITING TO MAKE COMPARISONS

Animals are interesting. Think about two animals. What do they look like? Where do they live? What do they eat? What else do you know about them? Compare these two animals.

### CHECKLIST

**DIRECTIONS:** Use this checklist after you have completed your response to revise and edit your writing.

- Did I stay focused on the topic and the task?
- Did I develop my ideas with details and examples?
- Did I use logical order so my writing makes sense?
- Did I use a variety of words, phrases, and sentences?
- Did I spell, capitalize, and punctuate correctly?

**Michigan Educational Assessment Program**  
Analytic Rubric  
Informational Writing  
Grades 4 and 7

	0	1	2	3
Ideas (points doubled)	Ideas are not focused on the task and/or are undeveloped.	Ideas are minimally focused on the task with limited details and examples.	Ideas are somewhat focused on the task and are developed with some details and examples.	Ideas are clearly focused on the task and are thoroughly developed with relevant details and examples.
Organization	No organization evident.	Organization and connections between ideas are weak.	Organization and connections between ideas are logical.	Organization and connections between ideas are clear, logical and appropriate for the context.
Style	Ineffective use of language for the writer's purpose and audience.	Limited use of language, including lack of variety in word choice and sentences, may hinder the effectiveness of the writer's purpose and audience.	Adequate command of language, including accurate word choice and clear sentences, is effective for the writer's purpose and audience.	Command of language, including precise word choice and varied sentence structure, is highly effective for the writer's purpose and audience.
Conventions	Ineffective use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.	Limited use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level.	Adequate use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level.	Consistent, appropriate use of conventions of Standard English* for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level.

Any condition code will result in a score of 0 for all traits:

- A Off-topic
- B Illegible or written in a language other than English
- C Blank
- D Insufficient to rate

\* Standard English is the form of English most widely accepted for writing in schools.

Tigers eat horsis.  
horsis eat haye.  
and birds eat wlrms.

**ANCHOR PAPER 1**

**Score Point: 0**

Many errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation in this brief response demonstrate ineffective use of the conventions of Standard English.

Dogs are animals that watch your house they are nice to have for a pet if no one lives with you you can get a dog so you are not lonely.

A bat is an animal that is up at night and sleeps at day time some are scared of you some are not they are all across the world.

**ANCHOR PAPER 2****Score Point: 1**

Paragraph-length run-on sentences and spelling errors show limited use of Standard English conventions.

to day I am compare a cat and a dog. Whell a cat is so vary gentall. But a dog is vary rough. Ther is olry one thing that means. That means that a cat is re/xetiv and a dog is vary playful. Now you probly know this but a cat gose mew mew and a dog say's ruf ruf. Sence cat's are so jentil girls like them the best. But a dog is so rough that a boy would like a dog the best. Nonly a dog is big and cat is small wich if you wour to ask me that is why I like cats not dog. But ex vable I will have to get over that.

**ANCHOR PAPER 3****Score Point: 1**

A limited use of conventions is evident in the numerous spelling errors, many of simple words (whell, olry, gose), which make this response difficult to read.

## About Animals

My name is Brenna • Have you ever had a cat or a dog? I did. Now I'm going to tell you about it. It all started at the Pet Shop.

One day I was going to the pet shop. I had got a cat and a dog. Now the cat will bite you if it do not know you. My cat look like a horse. It got green eyes that scare me. It got a pink cute nose, and a short tail. My cat is furry. I feed it eight times a day well probably nine time a day. I make sure that it stays healthy.

Now my dog chase my cat around. I feed my dog eight times a day. It have brown eyes and also a pink nose. It really has

a long tall. It can hit you so hard  
like it me. Then it die because  
I didn't feed it. We tried save it  
but it die. Now I'm sad but too sad.  
Now I only have a cat now.

I wish it can come back to life.  
I learned that some animals can die  
from not feeding them.

**ANCHOR PAPER 4****Score Point: 1**

Lack of subject-verb agreement (it do, cat look, dog chase) hinders readability and demonstrates limited use of Standard English conventions.

Many animals are interesting. For example Deer and bears have some cool things about them. Deer eat plants and grass. In their free time they usually graze. They have a tough fur and have hooves. On the other hand Bears like to eat berries and little animals. They have sharp claws and teeth. They both live in the USA. There are many cool animals but I choose these.

**ANCHOR PAPER 5****Score Point: 2**

Mostly well-written sentences in this short response outweigh the one sentence-level error and the few spelling and capitalization errors. Overall this response indicates an adequate use of English conventions.

A crocodile has a long tail, hard skin, and sharp teeth so he can eat his prey. A crocodile doesn't live in places that don't have water. They eat frogs, birds, wild beasts, people. A crocodile's first enemy is human. Also when a crocodile wants to catch a bird that is flying the crocodile hides under water. When a bird is close to the water the crocodile jumps out of the water catches the bird and eats it. And crocodiles live in lots of places like the United States of America, the Forest, Jungle, and other places. When a crocodile lays eggs he digs a hole lays the eggs and goes to somewhere close to the eggs. And when an enemy comes the crocodile comes to save her eggs. Humans kill crocodiles so they can create something from its skin.

A lion has a tail, fur, sharp teeth, and long hair on his head, also claws. And lives in America and other places. They eat cow's, people, wild beasts, and birds. And a lion almost looks like a Jaguar but a lion is bigger, stronger, and not fast. When a lion wants to get his prey he kills them with his sharp claws or teeth. And a lion is the strongest animal on earth. And a lion's enemy human and other animals like snakes.

**ANCHOR PAPER 6****Score Point: 2**

Even though subject-verb agreement errors, run-on sentences, and apostrophes on plurals are evident, their frequency is limited and they do not interfere with meaning. Overall, there is an adequate use of conventions.

I am comparing a wiener dog and a Monkey. A wiener dog is a pet that has a long distance of length. As in if a Monkey, they arent that long. But what they both have in commen is that there both brown. Wiener dogs can be light brown and Monkeys are normally a darker shade of brown. But there still both brown. Wiener dogs are kept as pets more often than Monkeys. Wiener dogs to some people are easier to train than Monkeys. A Monkeys habbitat is very wet, because they live in the rainforest. A Wiener dogs habbitat is normally at somebodys hause. Thats all I can tell you for today.

**ANCHOR PAPER 7****Score Point: 2**

A few spelling and sentence-level errors are apparent in this response. Overall, there are enough good sentences to demonstrate adequate use of Standard English conventions.

## Comparing A Cat And an Elephant.

First I will say the things they have in common. They both are animals, they both eat, they both have four legs, they both have tails, they both have at least some hair, And they both have teeth.

Next I will tell about what things the cat has that the elephant doesn't have. The cat has sharp claws, it is smaller than the elephant, it has smaller ears than the elephant, it eats cat food and sometimes table scraps, it also is afraid of dogs, And it has whiskers.

The last thing I will tell about is what the elephant has that the cat does not have. The elephant is

afraid of mice, is way, way bigger than a cat, it has toe nails, (no like any other animals) has a trunk and on the end it has nostrils on its trunk, some elephants also have horns that come from the side of the cheeks of an elephant that comes out of its mouth. It has two really, really, really, really, big ears that the elephant can wave all around, and the last thing about elephants I know is you know how they are really, really, big???

Well they probably have a lot of bones, maybe like 200 or something, anyway I was saying they have a lot of bones.

There you have it, I compared two animals saying that what they have in common, and the things that are very, well sort of unique about them. hope you liked it!

**ANCHOR PAPER 8****Score Point: 3**

This response has commas separating brief sentences instead of periods. Despite this single, repeated error there are few others. The conventions of Standard English are consistently and appropriately used.

I am comparing an eel and a snake. But both of them can be pretty scary! I think snakes are pretty cool, because they can eat a whole cat with one big "gulp!"

Now you all know that a snake can bite. But an eel can sting. Snakes live on land, and eels swim. Once I saw a Michigan rattle snake swimming while I was fishing! I watched it slither in the water. That's what eels and snakes have in common, they both slither.

I almost forgot. Eels are one of my favorite animals. They are kind-of like snakes. But I don't think they would get along.

**ANCHOR PAPER 9****Score Point: 3**

In this short response conventions of Standard English are consistently and appropriately used.

Frogs and toads are very different. Frogs are amphibians, have smooth skin, long legs, and webbed feet. What do frogs eat? Frogs eat flies, crickets, and sometimes each other. Where do frogs live? Frogs live in Michigan and pretty much any other place in North America that's not too dry and not too cold they also can live in the Amazon rain forest because it's really moist there. There are so many different kinds of frogs some are cannibals like the African horned frog and some are poisonous like the poison arrow dart frog. Frogs predators are snakes and big birds. Toads are reptiles, they have short legs, dry bumpy skin, and they don't have webbed feet. What do toads eat? Toads eat worms, crickets, and grasshoppers. Where do toads live? Toads live in Michigan and hot and dry places where there is not much water, like Arizona. There are so many different kinds of toads. There are only

two kinds of toads found in Michigan. The most comon are the fowlers toad the other kind of toad that lives in Michigan is the American toad. And these are the difrences of a frog and a toad.

**ANCHOR PAPER 10****Score Point: 3**

Although some spelling errors and run-on sentences are evident, this response also displays proper use of capitalization and end-punctuation, of commas in series, and of compound and complex sentences. Overall, this lengthier response displays consistent and appropriate use of Standard English conventions.

Anchor Paper 1	
Ideas	1
Organization	1
Style	0
Conventions	0

Anchor Paper 6	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 2	
Ideas	0
Organization	1
Style	1
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 7	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 3	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 8	
Ideas	2
Organization	3
Style	2
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 4	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	1

Anchor Paper 9	
Ideas	1
Organization	2
Style	3
Conventions	3

Anchor Paper 5	
Ideas	2
Organization	2
Style	2
Conventions	2

Anchor Paper 10	
Ideas	3
Organization	3
Style	3
Conventions	3