

## **EXAMPLE PERSUASIVE THEME WITH A COUNTERCLAIM**

**Prompt:** In a Persuasive Theme, argue that there should be no animals in the circus. Include a Counterargument Paragraph and a total of at least five paragraphs in the theme. Use the MLA style.

TITLE OF PAPER: Free the Animals!

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### Free the Animals!

In front of the big circus tent, protesters were holding posters and yelling, “Free the animals!!” What was THAT about? They can’t be serious about not having animals in circuses, can they? Who ever heard of a circus without animals? Without question, when most people think of a circus, they think of animal acts like the lions, tigers, and dogs doing tricks. They look forward to seeing the elephants parade while holding onto each other’s tails. They laugh when the clowns and their dogs do a funny act. However, because many people believe that animals should live a natural life and should not be abused, they argue that animals should be banned from the circus.

First, they reason that animals should not be in the circus because they should live a natural life. Importantly, animals should live in their natural habitat, like the jungle or the woods instead of a cage. For example, elephants like to live together in families and communities and roam freely. Instead, elephants in the circus are tied with a rope to a post or kept in a cage or a truck. Additionally, animals should be able to obtain their own food when they get hungry and eat it as they normally would. Instead, they are given dried food on a rigid schedule. Further, animals living in the wild do what they want to do when they want to do it. Circus animals are made to travel around the country from place to place in vehicles and to perform on a schedule. As they perform, they are made to perform acts that are not natural to them. For example, elephants in the wild do not parade in a line with their front feet on the backs of other elephants.

Unfortunately, because they are living such unnatural lives, circus animals are likely to be abused. For example, because they have to learn to behave in unnatural ways, the animals might rebel and refuse to act in those ways, or they might misbehave. As a result, the trainers might resort to using whips to force the animals to do things. They might even beat or torture the animals. Trainers often put tight collars around the animals' necks, drag them around, or tie them in one place. When circus animals are injured, either by another animal or because they have been beaten, they might not get the medical treatment that they need. Veterinarians with the proper skills are often not available on the road, or the circus staff members don't want anyone to know that an animal has been injured.

Of course, there are people who argue that having animals in the circus is part of the tradition surrounding circuses and that circuses should continue to include animal acts. Crucially, they feel that having animals in the circus educates people about animals. For example, they say that animals are very smart and talented creatures, and people need to understand how smart animals are. People will be more likely to protect animals if they understand their intelligence. Moreover, they say that the animals play important roles in the circus acts. Without the animals, many acts could not exist. The lion-tamer act could not exist without the lions! They also say that the animals are funny. Without the animals, people might not laugh or have as much fun as they watch the circus acts.

Nevertheless, in conclusion, regardless of how talented animals are and the role they play in the circus, their participation does not seem worth the costs to their lives. No amount of entertainment is worth an animal's pain or death. Taking the animals out of their natural habitats and forcing them to behave in ways that are unnatural to them is a blow to their nature and existence. It is an example of humans lording over the animal world for financial gain. Putting

the animals in a position where they can be abused and injured without giving them adequate medical care is a moral and ethical travesty. For these important reasons, this country should ban the presence of animals in circuses. Animals currently in circuses should be allowed to live naturally on protected lands. In lieu of that, the presence of animals in circuses should be monitored with strict regulations and health guidelines. After all, freeing the animals is not such a far-fetched idea!