ISTEP+
Grade 4 Writing

Lionfish

Practice Set 2
Directions
Read the article “Beware of This Fish!” Then answer the questions.

Beware of This Fish!

Hunters in the Deep
1 Deep in the ocean, a fierce predator swims and hunts. It’s not a huge shark or a scary squid. It’s a striped fish that’s only about the size of a dinner plate. It’s called a lionfish, and it’s causing big problems for its ocean habitat.

Lionfish Invasion
2 Lionfish are an invasive species. Invasive species are plants or animals that live where they don’t belong and harm the habitat.

3 Right now, many lionfish are in the ocean near the United States. But lionfish are native to oceans far from our country. That means they normally live in faraway oceans. How did they get here?

4 No one knows for sure. But some scientists think that people in the U.S. kept lionfish as pets. When the people got tired of the lionfish, they put them in the ocean. Over time, the lionfish started to take over the habitat!
Unstoppable Lionfish

Lionfish eat more than 70 different kinds of ocean animals. And lionfish keep eating, even when they’re full.

Not many animals are able to hunt and eat lionfish. Lionfish have sharp spikes. When an animal touches a spike, the spike lets out venom, which is a poison that can hurt or even kill.

Lionfish also have a lot of babies. A female lionfish can lay 2 million eggs in a year!

All of this is bad news for the habitat. Lionfish eat so much that not much food is left for the other animals. And since other animals can’t eat them, the number of lionfish keeps growing.

Living with Lionfish

Scientists don’t think it’s possible to get rid of all the invasive lionfish. There are too many, and they swim in deep water, where it’s hard to get them.

Some places hold contests to see who can catch the most lionfish. If the lionfish are cleaned and their spikes are removed, people can eat them! In other places, people train sharks to eat the lionfish. Lionfish venom doesn’t harm sharks like it harms other animals.

Scientists are also trying to teach people how to stop problems like this before they start. People should not release their pets into the wild. It’s best to keep animals in the habitats where they belong!
You have read an article about the problem of an invasive fish species. Using details from “Beware of This Fish!,” write a persuasive article for the school newspaper explaining to students who have pet lionfish why they should not release them into the wild.

Be sure to include

- details from the article to explain why lionfish should not be released into the wild
- descriptions of some of the ways that invasive species cause problems
- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion to your article

Use the following Prewriting/Planning page to help you plan your writing. Then write your final draft on the lined pages.
Hey students at Washington Polo Academy! Do you have a pet at home? Do you have a fish? If you qualify yes for these two questions, is it a lionfish? If you do and are ready to ditch the care of these animals, don’t release them into the ocean. Even if you are not responsible for caring for lionfish, dive deep with me into the reasons allowing your lionfish into the ocean is not a good idea.

Have you ever seen a lionfish? Do you know what they look like? Lionfish have long spikes covering their body like a sea urchin. They are sharp and when an animal touches a spike, the spike lets out venom, which is a poison that can even hurt or kill, quoted from “Beware of this Fish”.

Lionfish are venomous. That results in many fish dying. But that’s not all, can you guess how many species a lionfish eats? Not 5, 10, 20, 40 or even 60!! A single lionfish can eat up to 10 different types of fish. So, that means “Crunch Time!” for the fish that roars. Well, not literally. Metaphorically, I mean.

We have learned about how lionfish have these venom “machine gun spikes” that make them all “high and mighty in the sea!” protecting them from other animals. Now that gives them the power to dominate the marine world not to mention that one mama lays 2,000,000 eggs a year and that they eat when they’re still. So, to stop lionfish from dictating oceans (then lands in 5,000 years) what do we do? Well then. Let’s make “bullet points.”
People are training sharks to eat the creature.

Some places hold lionfishing contests.

Yeah, people are training sharks, unbelievable! FYI, sharks are immune to the venom. And then there are people who are hunting lionfish. That's better than hunting endangered animals, right? So what we do is wait ten years and BOOM! No more lionfish invasion for Christmas, right? No. What we can do is spread the information to others so they can use alternatives like giving their pet away to a friend or shelter.

Lionfish are to be protected. We should do this by reducing the invasive species for mother nature.

Writing - 6 pts

This response fully accomplishes the task with a distinctive quality. The response stays fully focused on the topic (dive deep with me into the reasons allowing your lionfish into the ocean is not a good idea). There is a clear order, with a beginning, middle, and end along with logical progression including thorough and complete ideas. Bullet points in the middle somewhat break the flow of the paper but do not detract from the exceptional word usage, dynamic vocabulary, and vivid descriptions used in the article (literally, metaphorically, machine gun spikes, high and mighty of the seas, dominate the marine world).

Language Conventions - 4 pts

Though errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar are apparent in this response, the writer demonstrates good command of language skills; errors have only a minor impact on communication. This makes the response a 4.
Listen up, students! We can not let people release lionfish out into the ocean, it could harm a lot of things! Lionfish should not be released out into the ocean because they are harmful to plants, animals, and humans. So let's not do it!

This invasive species is harming everybody just because they have venom!! And they also have a contest to see who can catch the most lionfish. Isn't that crazy? They can just clean the lionfish up and eat it. Did they forget about venom?? Lionfish can have babies. The female lionfish can lay 2 million eggs in one year! Imagine if there were males and 2 females. Imagine how much babies there would be! About 4 million of them. Students do you guys get this? Tell your parents not to release lionfish in
the ocean or in the wild!!!
If someone doesn't know what a lionfish looks like I'll tell you right now! It is a striped fish that is about the size of a dinnerplate. I know what you're thinking, how are they so harmful? If they're small? Well if you don't know that you should really read the passage. And right how a lionfish could be harming the universe. I hope you like these animals in the wild by not releasing lionfish. And thank you for reading your school's news article!

Writing - 5 pts
The response fully accomplishes the task because the response stays focused on the topic as to why students should not release their pet lionfish into the wild (Lionfish should not be released out into the ocean because they’re harmful to plants, animals, and humans). There is a clear order with a beginning, middle, and end along with logical progression. The introduction (Listen up Students) allows the reader to know right away that this is a persuasive article. The conclusion is brief and internal transitions are lacking so the article seems less fluent. The writing is easy to read and exhibits a sense of audience as the voice comes out in the response (I know what you're thinking) and (thank you for reading your school's news article!).

Language Conventions - 4 pts
There are no errors that impair the flow of communication.
Kids, kids of all ages and sizes,
we are here to ask you, "Would you like a lionfish?"

People might ask why would I say that so I will tell you why you should have one today! You should have one of these marvelous creatures because they are U.S.A.'s water by eating all other animals shotting deadly venom when something hits a spike.

Now I will tell you why you should take one as a pet. You should take one as a pet so they can do these thing to the environment. If you feed it properly and keep it in a tank and don't tam if you should be good to have one of these different (but still good) lionfish.

Yes, they lay eggs but if you see it layed eggs just look online or ask someone how to cut everything off them you can eat it.

If you keep these as a pet you will little by little but still little is a lot, help save half of the world water! If you keep them then you will not know that they could be too harmful but no animals can eat them except trained shark and they are eating the
food for the other living ones and if they
don't get eaten then they might not find
food and then starve.

Here are some reason why you might
not want one as a pet: they are deadly only
if you touch them, they eat all they can
find, and your parent don't understand how
much you can help. They could lay up to 2
million eggs a year, if female, and two
million of those make a big difference. You
might not want them but when you don't
give them to some local fisherman company
not to ocean. If you put them in the ocean
then you are not doing much good.
You probably want a dog, cat,
lizard, or a regular fish not a lion fish, but
taking those you aren't doing any good to
the ocean maybe a simple pet shop.
Don't no take on of these
because they could shoot venom think
beyond that, above that you are helping
animals.
If you live some were were
you can't get one ask around to fish-
ermen or look at other animals that
will help.
They only shoot venom and do
other bad things to pertect them.
They don't do it because it is fun. If you
make it a happy place to live they will
want to be there and probably be way less
harmful.
get them, and if you do to them all together, you could make a difference. When you look at them, you probably don’t think they couldn’t be harmless, but they can be not harmless.

If you do not know what venom is, it is a liquid that comes out of some animals to protect them. The liquid could kill or just hurt badly. Not all the time you will die but just because you might not you should still be on the safe side with things and don’t do it. Just think about it like some one asks, you to help find there dog, you still shouldn’t because it always could be some one that could hurt or bird rape you and you always should run away. Same for venom just step away it can’t follow you.

The response fully accomplishes the task of writing a persuasive article about lionfish with the focus on why students should have lionfish as pets versus not having lionfish as pets. There is a clear order, with a beginning, middle, and end along with logical progression. The conclusion is brief and the response loses focus after the second page but ultimately brings the response back to the main message. The response displays more than adequate word usage and some descriptive words (marvelous creators) and includes varied sentence patterns and complex sentences (If you feed it properly and keep it in a tank and don’t touch it you should be good to have one of these different, (but still good), lionfish).

There are no errors that impair the flow of communication.
**Lionfish**

Lionfish are dangerous predators. If you have a lionfish at home you don't want to put it in the ocean just ask people if they would want one. I'm going to tell you some reasons why you don't want these predators out in the ocean. They have poisonous spikes that you don't want to touch. They also cause a lot of issues like eating a variety of different fish and harming fish habitats. We can stop having this happen if more and more people train sharks to kill them because they don't get poisoned like we do. Other ways we can help are if fisher men catch a lot of them and cut off their spikes where we can eat them without any harm to us. Scientists think that we will never get them all to go because female lionfish have over 2 million babies every year. But at this school we are going to change this problem. If every single one of us helps this problem and do all these things we will show those scientists who's boss. Is everyone on this
We can all do this if we all just stick together. We can make a big difference in our lives. If you want to help even more, you can make posters at home and hang them up all around your neighborhood. Or maybe even in your friend or family’s neighborhood. We can all make a change in this community.

Writing - 4 pts
The response accomplishes the task with a good performance. The response is mostly focused on the topic as to why students who own a lionfish should not release them into the wild with a solution for creating awareness of the lionfish problem (we can all do this if we all just stick together) and (help even more you can make posters). The response has order with a beginning, middle, and end. The student uses mostly adequate word usage along with mostly ordinary/common words and displays some sense of audience (If every single one of us helps this problem and do all these things we will show those scientists whos boss. Is everyone with me . . . we can make a difference).

Language Conventions - 4 pts
The response has errors but none that impair the flow of communication.
Why should you not release your lionfish pet into U.S. oceans? Well, lionfish have large spikes so if a fish tries to eat it, it will just spike it and put venom into their body which could badly hurt the fish or lead to death. Also, they eat 70 different species of fish! If it eats that much fish, that fish habitat will be completely destroyed. They will eat all that fish and will still keep eating more even if their full, they still eat tons of fish! Lionfish also lay up to 2 million eggs in only 1 year! So fish can be disappearing everywhere. Where millions of lionfish are going? The good news is that scientists are training sharks to eat lionfish because, unlike either fish, sharks can't get hurt by the spikes or venom. Venom means poison. Some states have contests to see who can catch the most lionfish and also same places, people clean lionfish and take their venom and spikes out of their body and eat them! So remember, don't release your pet lionfish into U.S. oceans because lionfish don't belong there and they eat lots and lots of fish which is
not good for are healthier are oceans

health.

Writing - 4 pts: The response stays mostly focused on the topic as to why students who have pet lionfish should not release them into the wild. The response has order with a beginning, middle, and end. The writing has clear sequence; however, it is mostly paraphrased from each paragraph in the passage with almost no original ideas. The writing exhibits mostly word usage along with mostly ordinary/common words.

Language Conventions - 4 pts: Though there are a few minor errors in this response, these errors do not impair the flow of communication. This response is a 4.
How the limnfish eats is he open his shape
very dangerous teeth. He uses his teeth to rip things open
and jut out their poisonous venom to kill. The limnfish
is striped about the pike of a dinner plate. They
are very dangerous by their venom that they spit out. The
limnfish also has spines on their if more other animal tries
to eat them. People don't try to keep the animal in
a pet because they were a lot of problems and that
they keep on eating even when they are full. Limnfish eat
different kinds of different kinds of species and 70 different
kinds of ocean creatures feeding through the sea. Some
people even have caught to see who can catch more
limnfish. A female limnfish has to lay 60,000 eggs a year. Scientists
think it's too hard to catch these creatures because
there is only many of them and to deep down in the sea.

Writing - 3 pts  The response stays minimally focused with some relevant ideas
dangerous by their venom . . . eat all kinds of different kinds of species . . . too hard to
catch . . . way to many of them and to deep down in the sea. The response is missing a
beginning and an end. Word choice is minimal and contains ordinary/common words
with little connection between the ideas and information provided. The “list” of ideas
is similar to A-4 but this response has more content for the higher score point.

Language Conventions - 3 pts  The response contains occasional errors
that do not impede the flow of communication.
You should not ever release a lionfish in the ocean because if you do, it will kill the animals in the ocean. And it destroys the habitat. That is bad. We can't eat fish any more. And we can't get fit of them. They also can lay over a million eggs a year. That is why I am try to persuasive you not to release lionfish in the ocean. They can eat over 70 different kinds of fish. If you touch the lionfish, the poison spikes will come out. If it touches you, it will poison you or kill you.

Writing - 3 pts: The response minimally accomplishes the task. The response stays minimally focused with some relevant ideas (it will kill the animals in the ocean) and (it destroys the habitat). It has some order with a beginning and a middle, however the conclusion is missing. Word choice is simple and there is a brief attempt to write for an audience (That is Why I am try to Persuasive You not to release lionfish in The ocean).

Language Conventions - 3 pts: Errors in all categories are occasional but do not impede the overall flow of communication.
People think other people should not release animals without asking because if they release their animal into nature they could harm the earth because their animals harmed it. Also, they can eat other animals that we humans need. That's why people think you shouldn't release pets.

**Writing - 2 pts**
The response stays less than minimally focused with few relevant ideas (if they release their animal into nature they could harm the earth) and (they can eat other animals that we humans need). It has minimal order with beginning, middle, and end. The writing exhibits less than minimal word usage containing ordinary/common words with some sense of audience.

**Language Conventions - 2 pts**
The response has frequent errors, but these do not obscure the meaning of the response.
Lionfish are very dangerous animals. They kill other animals if they are still eating when they are full. There is almost no way to stop them from killing other animals. The only way to stop them is by training sharks to go and kill them. Sharks don't get hurt from the poison like other animals. So, if you have a lionfish, do not let it out in the ocean.

**Writing - 2 pts**
The response only partially accomplishes the task. The response stays less than minimally focused with a list of a few relevant ideas (Lionfish are very dangerous animals) and (Sharks don't get hurt from the poison like other animals). The response has no clear beginning, middle or end. The writing exhibits less than minimal word usage containing ordinary/common words with no sense of audience.

**Language Conventions - 2 pts**
Errors are generally frequent and may cause the reader to stop and reread part of the writing.
The lionfish eats the fish and den.
The lionfish eats and uses.