Service Animals Lend a Hand Opinion Performance Task

Task:
People with disabilities often face challenges as they strive to perform the tasks of daily living. With the help of a service animal that is trained to perform specific tasks, disabled people can enjoy more independence and participate more fully in everyday activities in their home, school, workplace, and community.

For this task, you will be writing an opinion article related to the topic of service animals. Before you write your article, you will review three sources (an audio presentation with photos and two articles) that provide information about different types of service animals and a new law regarding service animals.

After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and view or read the sources carefully for information you will need to answer the questions and write an article.

In Part 2, you will write an opinion article on a topic related to the sources.

Directions for Beginning:
You will now examine several sources. You can look re-examine any of the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:
After examining the research sources, use the remaining time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the research sources you have viewed and read, which should help you write your opinion article.

Part 1
Sources for Performance Task:
Source #1
Listen to this presentation about monkeys being trained to help people with disabilities. [Slideshow Presentation available online]

Source #2
Here is an article about service animals from Click Magazine's November/December 2002 issue.

Source #3
This article about a new law about service animals is based on information in the following source:
- http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm
1. Why might people choose to use service monkeys instead of other service animals? Provide specific reasons from at least two sources in your answer. Be sure to name each source.

Type your answer in the space provided.

2. Which of the sources provides the best support for the new law? What are three strong reasons presented by that source?

Type your answer in the space provided.
Which of the three sources would be the most useful in arguing against the new law? Explain why, and support your answer with at least two details from that source.

Type your answer in the space provided.
Student Directions for Part 2
You will now look at your sources, take notes, and plan, draft, revise, and edit your article. You may use your notes and go back to the sources. Now read your assignment and the information about how your opinion article will be scored; then begin your work.

Your assignment:
The legislature has passed a new law that allows only service dogs to go with their owners into public places. You are working on the school newsletter, and you have been asked to write a multi-paragraph article giving your opinion on the new law. In your article, you will take a side as to whether you think allowing only service dogs in public places is a good law or whether other service animals should also be permitted. Your article will be read by the teachers and students at your school. In your article, clearly state your opinion and support your opinion with reasons that are thoroughly developed using information from what you have read and viewed.

REMEMBER: A well-written opinion article:

- has a clear opinion
- is well-organized and stays on the topic
- has an introduction and a conclusion
- uses transitions
- uses details from the sources to support your opinion
- develops ideas clearly
- uses clear language
- follows rules of writing (spelling, punctuation, and grammar)