FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT
WRITING PRE-TEST

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
5TH GRADE
OPINION PROMPT

NAME:__________________________________

TEACHER:____________________DATE:_____
Writing Situation:

The passages are about bottled water. Write an essay in which you give your opinion about which system would be better for your school; selling bottled water or buying a water purification system and why the other idea would not be a good choice for your school. Support your opinion with evidence from the sources.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- Read the passages;
- Plan your responses;
- Write your response; and
- Revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include:

- an introduction
- support for your opinion using information from the passages; and
- a conclusion that is related to your opinion.

Your writing should be in the form of a well-organized, multi paragraph essay.
Water Choices

Source #1

The Bottled Water Industry: A Real Goldmine

The bottled water industry is certainly one to watch. Billions of dollars are spent on bottled water every year. And this industry appears to be growing more powerful around the world.

Every year, people drink more and more bottled water because of its convenience. Studies have shown that people in America buy and drink more bottled water than people in other countries; however, more and more people in other countries are increasing the amount of bottled water they consume. The industry as a whole is growing 10% each year, which means if 100 people bought bottled water last year, then 110 people will buy it this year. That is a huge increase in sales in a relatively short period of time.

In 2011, a study showed that a total of 9.1 billion gallons of bottled water was sold in the United States. If you break that number down, it comes out to almost 30 gallons of bottled water for each person. That means that, on average, every single person in the country drank four bottles of water each week for the whole year—and these numbers are expected to grow. That's a lot of bottled water that people are drinking!

What makes this industry so interesting? One reason is the fact that people are spending a lot of money on something that they can essentially get for free. Bottled water companies are making huge profits selling a product to people who can get it simply by turning on their faucet. Why? This question causes many debates. People have different opinions about the bottled water industry. But one thing we can all agree on is that bottled water is sold practically everywhere, and people are buying it. It looks like the demand for this product is here to stay.
Bottled Water: The Right Choice

Bottled water is a subject about which people have very different opinions. Some argue that bottling water is a bad idea. But the reality is that bottles of water are being sold everywhere and people continue to buy them. People see the benefits of bottled water; it is a wise alternative to tap water.

One of the biggest advantages of bottled water is the convenience of it. It is important for people to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay healthy. It becomes even more important to drink water when you exercise or play sports. One rule of thumb is that people tend to drink more water if they are able to get it easily.

It is easy to grab a bottle of water before you leave the house so that you have it with you on your way to school. And taking a bottle of water and putting it in your gym bag on your way to a workout will help make sure that you have enough water while you exercise. Likewise, if you are thirsty and looking at options in a vending machine, a bottle of water offers a healthy choice to quench your thirst.

Many people feel that bottled water also tastes much better than tap water. Each brand of bottled water has a consistently good taste to it, but tap water tastes different depending on where it comes from. Different factors may cause tap water to taste better or worse to different people. Variances in tap water can be a problem when you are in different and unfamiliar places. How do you know how the tap water will taste? How do you know if it is clean enough? Bottled water will always taste the same wherever you buy it.

Another advantage of bottled water is that it can be shipped and stored easily. Sometimes natural events will cause the water supply to become damaged. When this happens, people will not be allowed to drink the water. Because water can be shipped so easily, getting clean water to the people who are affected can be done quickly. When a storm is coming that may cause us to lose electricity for a while, it is important to have enough clean water. We are actually told to have at least a three-day supply of water for each person. One gallon per person per day is the recommended amount. Buying a few cases of bottled water is simple enough to do to be prepared.

People will continue to have their own opinions about bottled water; however, it is hard to deny that some real benefits come from this product that many of us enjoy on a daily basis.
Source #3

Bottled Water: The Wrong Choice

People all over the world buy bottled water, mainly because it is convenient to do so. Although bottled water does have some conveniences, it also comes with some harmful effects. These negative effects are not worth the ease of purchasing a bottle of water.

First, the bottle that holds the water needs to be made. The process of creating the plastic bottle is actually quite damaging to the environment. We are living in a time when we are all trying our best to limit the greenhouse effect and reduce our use of fossil fuels. The amount of fuel used to run the machines that are making the bottles is tremendous. Then even more fuel is being used by the trucks to deliver the bottles of water all over the world. This is not helping our efforts to reduce our use of fossil fuels.

Then, what do people do with their plastic bottles when they are finished drinking the water? Unfortunately, not enough people are recycling. A study showed that only one out of every six plastic bottles is recycled by Americans. The other five bottles are going to our already-overflowing landfills, where they will sit for years to come, taking up more of our land. It is believed that the people in our country add 24 billion plastic bottles each year to landfills. That is just terrible!

What makes this entire process even more terrible is the fact that we have access to clean, tasty water right in our own homes. Many people incorrectly believe that bottled water is cleaner than tap water. This is actually not true. The water that comes from your sink at home has gone through many different treatments and tests. Water companies are required to follow strict rules to make sure the tap water does not have anything in it that would harm us. Bottled water companies do not have to follow those same strict rules. As a result, the water in the bottles that we pay for may actually contain things that might be harmful to us.

And then there is the matter of the consumer cost of bottled water. It is true that tap water is not free. But although we must pay to have running water in our house, the difference in the cost of bottled water compared to tap water is huge. About 450 gallons of tap water costs the same as just one bottle of water.

The damage to our environment, the possible health risks, and the cost all greatly outweigh the convenience of bottled water. It is time to start filling your washable water bottle with tap water and stop buying bottled water.