# Grade 7 Exemplar

**Exemplar A**

**Prompt: You have read two texts and viewed one video that claim that the role of the zoos is to protect animals. Compare and contrast the evidence each source uses to support this claim. Be sure to use evidence from all three sources to support your response.**

The texts and video show how zoos used to just display animals, but have become more thoughtful about how to protect animals now. Early zoos, described in “Zoos Go Wild,” showed off animals such as Willie, a gorilla whose gentle nature became hostile in his cramped cage. While there were misguided attempts to protect his happiness such as giving him a television, the zoos mostly just tried to “display as many different species….as they possibly [could].” Protecting happiness with television is fake, almost just pretending to care. These zoos really just wanted to make money and show off the animals. This tendency to show off animals changed to become a little more thoughtful about how to protect the animals’ well-being when the zoo designed a better space for Willie, and he became happier. When designing Willie’s new home, these people attended to “not only what the habitats [of animals] looked like but how the animals used the space." That shows an improvement because now Will can act more like he did in nature. In contrast. in the video “Seven Frisky Lion Clubs”, Saffoe goes even further to really protect animals in zoos. While one’s instinct is to touch cubs, they discouraged this, aware that cubs are best cared for by their mother, letting “nature to take its course.” This shows they prioritize what they have learned about protecting animals over what people might want to do. The third source “Stripes Will Survive,” describes how the zoo’s tigers, Tatja, the father, is "mellow," and Gaia, the mother, is "an absolutely perfect mother – tolerant, loving, and protective." This suggests the zoos are doing an intelligent job protecting animals’ overall well-being because unlike Willie, these animals are so happy. If Gaia were stressed, it would be unlikely she would take care of her cubs so well. Also, tigers are becoming extinct, so zoos now even go further to work to protect animals from extinction. One way they are doing this is to "teach the public about the plight of tigers and do research." Caring well for the real “protection” of animals has grown over time in zoos, and even well beyond the walls of zoos.