For College, Rain Cats, Not Dogs

Cats and dogs both make fantastic pets, but, for college students, the most appropriate choice depends on several key factors. Dogs are expensive, high-maintenance, and space-taking creatures; cats, on the other hand, are inexpensive, low-maintenance, and space-saving animals. Therefore, when considering the factors of pet management, cost, and accommodations, cats are the best choice for college students who must devote most of their time to rigors of study and the demands of a social life, live week-to-week on a tight budget, and, generally, live in small, efficiency apartments or dormitory rooms.

The first difference between cats and dogs is how they need to be managed. Cats do not have to be indoors during the day, and it is relatively simple to find caretakers who can visit the house once a day if the owner must travel. In contrast, dogs should not be left alone. They may get in trouble if left by themselves, and it is more difficult to find a good dog kennel or someone to walk the dog several times daily if the owner travels. For this reason, in terms of management, cats are much easier to handle than dogs.

The second difference in these two types of pets is cost. Cats are less expensive to own and sustain. For them, both food and health care costs are typically fairly low. Also, cats are less likely to damage property or hurt themselves. On the other hand, dogs often chew on furniture, damage gates or fences and sometimes get into fights with other animals and hurt themselves. Once again, in regards to the price of their general upkeep, cats are a better bargain.
The final difference to consider when it comes to live-in pets such as dogs and cats is accommodations. Cats are small, do not take up much space, and they do not need a large area to run around. They are very independent and can take care of themselves most of the time. They do not cause trouble to their owners or other people. Some breeds of dog, however, can be quite large. Regardless of their size, they often need a yard or fence and, because they like to bark and run around, they need more safety and protective measures. These facts put dogs in the dependent category because, most of the time, they cannot take care of themselves.

Regrettably, the animal shelters are absolutely full of animals, usually dogs, previously adopted by young people—with good intentions—away from home at college. These unfortunate beasts are often abandoned or dropped off at no-kill shelters when these irresponsible students finally realize that they got in over their heads (into the proverbial water). Even though this paper has argued that cats make a better choice of pet than dogs, when and if college students consider adopting a pet, they must consider the management, cost, and accommodations that any type of pet would require. Owners who do not think about these three important aspects are, in actuality, disrespecting the animal. SLU students, in particular, should remember that disrespect of any kind to God’s creations violates the spirit of the core values.

*Essay did not hit the minimum word count of 550 words. Each argument could have been more developed, i.e., fleshed out. You overused the emphasis with italics technique. Once or twice per paper is okay. Good use of deductive reasoning.*