



Is testing products on animals ethical?

By: Jessica Shaffer

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Science
Grades 6-8



Introduction

Students will write a persuasive essay about their (fact-supported) stance on animal testing. Students will choose a for or against viewpoint and students will participate in an organized debate at the end of the writing. For a challenge, you can assign the students' viewpoint in which they must persuade readers to think. This may help you when you set up the debate so there are even sides.

Students will research the pros and cons of animal testing in order to develop a persuasive argument on whether it is ethical or not. Communication skills and speaking standards will be addressed in the debate portion. The debate is an optional extension activity for the persuasive essay.

Learning Objectives

- Students will use the writing process to create a persuasive essay on whether or not testing on animals is ethical.

Materials Needed

- [Pre-writing graphic organizer](#)
- [Writer's checklist](#)
- Chromebook/tablet/computer

Procedure

Task 1

1. Discuss prior knowledge of animal testing and students thoughts on the topic.

Task 2

1. Review proper sites to search for information and safe ways to email companies for information on their animal testing policies.

Task 3

1. Read various articles and watch informational videos. Have students fill in a graphic organizer to organize ideas and determine three strong arguments on their viewpoint of whether or not testing on animals is ethical.

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Task 4

1. Have students create their essay.
 - Introduction - What viewpoint do you want people to side with?
 - Supporting Facts - Include at least three paragraphs to support your viewpoint.
 - Conclusion- Restate your position and summarize facts.

Task 5

1. Teachers will conference with students before they create their writing piece to ensure that the facts to support the argument are suitable. Teachers will continue to conference/check-in with students as they create their writing piece. Students will be given a checklist to make sure their persuasive essay has all the proper components.

Task 6

1. When the rough draft of the essay is completed, students should have one to two peer editors read over their paper. Teachers will monitor students and will assist as needed.

Task 7

1. Students will then complete the final draft of the essay and prepare for the debate.

Optional Activities:

- **Assignment:** Students should prepare for debate as a team and come up with a plan of action. This is practice for high school and college debates and is a fun activity to participate in.
- **Animal Testing Debate:** The class will divide into debate teams to debate viewpoints on whether or not animal testing is ethical.

Evaluation

You should use the writing rubric that your district requires to grade the writing.

**This activity can be modified for students with special learning needs or accommodations. **