

[Month ##, 2012]

[Name of Principal or Teacher]

[School Name]

[Address]

Dear [Name of Principal or Teacher]:

I'm enrolled in [Name of Class] and have just become aware of the fact that all students are expected to participate in activities involving animal dissection. Because of my sincerely held moral and/or religious beliefs against harming animals, I am unable to participate in said activities and would like to request a humane, educationally equivalent non-animal assignment.

Each year, millions of frogs, rats, cats, mice, and other animals suffer and are killed for dissection. These animals are bred in warehouses, snatched from the wild, and even taken from animal shelters before they end up in the dissection tray. These animals' suffering during capture, transportation, warehousing, and slaughter is significant.

I respectfully request that, consistent with the guidance of leading science-education organizations, you provide me with an alternative that does not involve dissecting or experimenting on any animal, living or dead. Studies have shown that using computer programs, models, and other non-animal alternatives can teach students like me just as well as (or better than) animal dissection. Virtual dissection options also save schools money because they can be used over and over and can be obtained at no charge from humane-education organizations. Some are even available on the Internet free of cost.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]