

Dear

I'm enrolled in

I have just learned that students will be expected to participate in animal dissection for our coursework. Because of my sincerely held moral beliefs against harming animals, I am politely refusing to participate in these activities and would like to request an educationally equivalent non-animal assignment.

Each year, millions of frogs, rats, fish, and other animals suffer and are killed for dissection. They're bred in warehouses, snatched out of their homes in the natural world, and even taken from animal shelters before they end up on the dissection tray. The suffering of these animals during capture, transport, 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 just as well as (or better than) animal dissection. Virtual dissection options also save schools money because they can be used over and over again and can often be obtained at no charge from humane-education organizations. Some are even available online for free.

I would like to meet with you so that we can discuss this further as well as a proposal that our school consider eliminating dissection altogether. Please contact me with your availability at

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

Sincerely,