

# Gale Lesson Plan

## Opposing Viewpoints In Context: Animal Experimentation

**GRADE LEVEL:** 10-12

**SUMMARY OF LESSON:** Students will work in groups of three to examine the benefits and drawbacks of animal experimentation. Each group will write a newscast that includes three roles: an interviewer, an expert for, and an expert against using animals for psychological research.

**FOCUS QUESTION:** Should humans use animals for psychological research?

**RESOURCE:** *Opposing Viewpoints In Context*

**LEARNING EXPECTATION:** Students will use their research skills to find appropriate sources for a newscast on using animals for psychological research. They will use this research and their creative writing skills to write a newscast/interview sharing both sides of the issue and will present this debate to the class.

**TIME FRAME:** 3-4 class periods

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### PROCEDURES:

#### Steps/Activities by the Teacher:

- In a class discussion, ask students what they think about animal experimentation.
- Explain that animal experimentation is often used in psychological research. An example of this might be Ivan Pavlov's experiments with dogs.
- Break the students into groups of three. One student should be for psychological experimentation on animals and another should be against animal experimentation. The third student will need to know both sides of the issue as the newscaster/interviewer.
- Allow students time to access *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Direct students to the Animal Experimentation topic page. The students should look for articles that support their assigned position on this issue. The interviewer should look for articles related to both sides.
- Ask students to find at least three articles that support their position. The interviewer will need 2-3 from each side. Encourage students to explore all content types (Viewpoints, Video, Audio, Reference, News, Academic Journals, etc.).
- When students have finished, they should split into their respective camps and try to answer the following prompt: "Agree or disagree: is it necessary and ethical for humans to use animals in psychological research?" The Interviewer group should listen in on each camp and begin to write ideas for questions for the news interview.
- When each camp has finished their discussions and answered the prompt, they will go back to their group of three to organize the format of the Newscast. Encourage creativity.
- In a class discussion, talk about the advantages and disadvantages of using animals in psychological experiments. Ask students to consider how using animals in experiments has an impact on people.

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### Steps/Activities by Student(s):

- Think about animal experimentation. Do you agree or disagree with using animals in psychological experiments?
- You will be working in groups of three to write a newscast. During the newscast, one person will be pro using animals in psychological experiments, one person will be con, and one person will understand both sides of the issue objectively in order to conduct an interview of both sides during the newscast.
- Access *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Select **Animal Experimentation** from the **Browse All Topics** page or use the **Basic Search** bar to locate the topic page. Find at least three articles that support your assigned position. Explore all content types (Viewpoints, Video, Audio, Reference, News, Academic Journals, etc.). Interviewers will need to find content to support both sides.
- When you find articles to support your position, use the **Highlights and Notes** tool in *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* to annotate, take notes, and spotlight key points. Use the **Citation Tools** on each article or document in *Opposing Viewpoints In Context* to cite your sources and create a bibliography or Works Cited page. Save your research with workflow tools like **Send to Google Drive**, **Send to OneDrive**, **Email**, **Print**, and **Download**.
- Your teacher will break you into camps. One side will be for animal experimentation and another side will be against animal experimentation. An additional group will consist of students conducting the interview. Students conducting the interview will split their time with each group, so that they can understand both sides of the argument and find research to support each.
- In your group, discuss the information you have discovered to support your side.
- If you are part of the pro/con camp, use the information you have found and discussed to write an essay answering the following prompt: "Agree or disagree: is it necessary and ethical for humans to use animals in psychological research?" If you are an interviewer, write an essay that details the strongest arguments made by both sides, and create a list of questions that each side should answer. You will hand in your Bibliography or Works Cited page along with your essay.
- Break back into your groups of three to discuss both sides. The interviewer may edit their list of questions. Based on your discussion, write your newscast. Be creative in the format.
- Each group will present their newscast. After the presentations, you will participate in a class discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of using animals in psychological experiments. Think about how using animals in experiments has an impact on people.
- Hand in all your materials, including your essay and Works Cited page.

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**OUTCOME:** Students will locate research that supports an opinion on the use of animals in psychological research.

### RELATED ACTIVITIES:

#### English

Teachers may ask students to use the information they have found to write a persuasive essay with a call to action that explains why they feel that animals should or should not be used in psychological research.

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