

AP 205 - Animal Dissection - Student Options

Background:

The Ministry of Education Science curriculum outlines a number of learning outcomes requiring students to learn about organisms and organ systems. These are present in several courses including Science 8, Science 9, Life Sciences 11 and Anatomy and Physiology 12. In some of these classes, teachers may use dissection as an instructional strategy.

This administrative procedure recognizes that the Science curriculum addresses topics in which dissection may be used as a teaching tool, and which may be sensitive for some students. The School District acknowledges that students can choose not to participate in, or observe animal dissections for cultural, religious or ethical reasons.

Procedures:

1. In any class or course where animal dissection is part of the curricular program, schools will accommodate students who choose not to participate in animal dissection.
 - 1.1. Students who choose not to participate in animal dissection should inform their teacher prior to the class where the dissection activity is scheduled.
 - 1.2. An alternative instructional activity will be made available for the student.
 - 1.3. This activity must meet the curricular learning outcomes and offer a similar learning experience.
 - 1.4. The activity may include computer simulations, paper exercises, personal research, or other activity as determined by the classroom teacher.
 - 1.5. The time and effort required is to be similar to that provided through regular classroom instruction.
 - 1.6. For students who choose an alternative activity, assessment of their progress will be similar to the assessment processes used for dissection activities.
2. Information about an alternative delivery option to animal dissection will be in the course outline as well as discussed in class just prior to the dissection.

Legal Reference : *School Act - Sections 7, 17, 75, 85, 168*
Civil Rights Protection Act Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms