

SAMPLE LETTER FOR DISSECTION OPT-OUT

School Heading

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child is presently enrolled in a course in which animal dissection is part of classroom instruction. Dissection is defined as “the manipulation of preserved animals or animal parts for scientific study, which includes incising and may be followed by inspecting, touching, handling, and mounting.”

In compliance with New York State Education Law 809, students have the right to “object to the performance or witnessing of the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part”. The (*NAME OF SCHOOL*) district offers students alternatives to animal dissection should their parents wish their child to abstain from these activities.

Alternatives to animal dissection may include, but are not limited to: computer programs, plastic models, videos, and charts. Alternative dissection techniques are designed to provide the student with knowledge similar to what is expected to be gained by students in the course who perform, participate in, or observe the dissection.

Students who have opted out of animal dissection exercises are given information on specific activities and resources to use as their alternative assignment. These students are also provided assistance with their alternate task. Students who perform alternative projects and do not perform and witness the dissection of animals shall not be penalized.

If you do not wish your child to participate in animal dissection activities as described within the course, please complete and sign the form below and return it to your child’s science teacher (DATE).

Sincerely

Alternative to Animal Dissection Opt-Out

I do not wish for my child to participate in animal dissection activities.
Instead, I wish for my child to be provided approved alternatives to animal
dissection.

[Please print all information with the exception of your signature.]

Name of Student

Science Course

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number

Signature
