



How Animal Research Helps Fight Cancer

Suggested Grade Level 6

Objective	Enter the phrase “cancer research” into an online search engine and use the information to create a persuasive essay with facts about what is being done to reduce cancer deaths or eliminate a type of cancer.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVMA poster • Internet access

<p>Procedure</p> <p>National Standards:</p> <p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Writing skills <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science as inquiry • Personal health • Science and technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher begins by asking the students what term describes a group of diseases with uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. The discussion continues with what the students know about cancer and statistics about the number of people who die from cancer each year. See http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/CAFF2007PWSecured.pdf. • The students are asked if they know what has been done to reduce the number of cancer-related deaths. The teacher leads a discussion of changes in the laws (cancer warnings on cigarettes), changes in lifestyle (screening by a doctor for breast cancer), research (new medicines) etc. to illustrate ways society is reducing cancer rates. • Explore the question, “How does research with animals contribute to the fight against cancer?” Have students conduct research into this question using library research skills and then writing a <u>persuasive essay</u> on what they learn. This could include a timeline of the progress being made, a list of what species of animals are used in researching which types of cancers, etc. • Each student is asked to explain what he/she would do and why to reduce cancer risks or fight the spread of cancer as a biomedical researcher. • The class creates a bulletin board to display charts showing the data and photos that students collected about various forms of cancer, major research discoveries, and the changes in cancer rates over time.
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Ideas to extend this lesson	For students who know someone who had or is currently being treated for cancer, ask if they would be willing to interview the patient or their doctor. If so, they can explore the person’s knowledge about animal research and how it has led to improved treatment options and longer life expectancies for various types of cancers.
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