

# QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: ALTERNATIVES TO  
DISSECTION

ADOPTED: July 26, 2001

REVISED: October 9, 2003

105.3. ALTERNATIVES TO DISSECTION	
1. Purpose	<p>Dissection is an integral part of the sciences curriculum and is considered a valuable learning activity. Dissection, when properly supervised, is a hands-on activity for which there is no adequate substitute. Therefore, the Board encourages all students to participate in dissection and/or other related activities. Students taking part in these activities will gain an experience that is valuable to them, both in increasing their comprehension of the concepts covered in their science courses and in developing the techniques and skills used by scientists.</p> <p>Although the Board encourages all students to participate, students have the right from kindergarten through grade twelve to refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture, or otherwise harm or destroy animals, or any parts thereof, as part of their course of instruction.</p>
2. Definition	<p><b>Animal</b> shall mean any organism of the kingdom animalia.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p>Parents will be notified in writing of the Alternatives to Dissection Policy at the beginning of each school year, but not less than three (3) weeks prior to a scheduled course exercise that involves the use of animals.</p> <p>A student requesting an alternative to a dissection and/or other related activity must submit a letter to the building principal or designated representative requesting an alternative. The student and/or parents/legal guardians must sign the letter.</p> <p>A student who chooses to refrain from participating in and/or the observation portion of an assignment, project, or test involving dissection and/or other related activity shall be offered an alternative to that portion of the course.</p> <p>A student will not be discriminated against based upon his/her decision to exercise his/her right to not participate in a portion of a course involving participating in and/or the observation of a dissection and/or other related activity.</p>

Alternatives To Dissection and/or Other Related Activities

An alternative assignment, project, or test may include but is not limited to the following:

1. The use of videotapes, diagrams, models, films, books, computer simulations, or activities from laboratory manuals which would provide an alternate avenue for obtaining the knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study in question.
2. Observation of a dissection in lieu of the actual dissection work.
3. Completion of supplementary reports on the anatomy and physiology of the specimens being studied.