

Vegan Education in Schools

Vegan Clubs

Years 7 to 12

'My Favourite Animal' speeches

Overview

'My Favourite Animal' speeches provide students with a platform to express their admiration for a specific animal while raising awareness about the challenges they face and why they deserve protection. This activity encourages research, public speaking and critical thinking, allowing students to share compelling arguments for conserving their chosen animal. By fostering empathy and advocacy, these speeches inspire the school community to learn more about animals and take steps to support their protection.

How to organise 'My Favourite Animal' speeches

1. Introduce the activity and its purpose.

- Explain the goals of the speeches:
 - a) Encourage students to explore and research animals they admire.
 - b) Highlight the importance of protecting animals and their habitats.
 - c) Develop public speaking and persuasive communication skills.
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2. Provide guidelines for choosing an animal.

- Ask students to select an animal they are passionate about, such as:
 - a) Wildlife: Koalas, platypuses, or polar bears.
 - b) Companion animals: Dogs, cats, or rabbits.
 - c) Marine life: Sea turtles, dolphins, or manta rays.
- Encourage diversity by suggesting unique or endangered species to ensure a wide range of topics.

3. Offer a structure for crafting the speeches.

- Share a template to help students organise their thoughts:
 - a) **Introduction:** Introduce the animal and explain why they are their favourite.
 - b) **Facts and Features:** Share interesting facts about the animal, such as their behaviour, habitat, or physical traits.
 - c) **Challenges and Threats:** Highlight issues the animal faces, such as habitat destruction, poaching, or climate change.
 - d) **Call to Action:** Suggest ways to protect or support the animal, such as donating to conservation efforts or adopting sustainable practices.
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4. Provide resources for research and preparation.

- Share materials to support students in gathering information:
 - a) Online resources, documentaries, or books about wildlife and animal protection.
 - b) Infographics and videos from organisations like WWF or local wildlife groups.
 - c) Tips for writing persuasive and engaging speeches.
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5. Teach public speaking skills to boost confidence.

- Offer a workshop or tips on effective speaking:
 - a) Maintain eye contact and speak clearly.
 - b) Use gestures and vocal variety to keep the audience engaged.
 - c) Practice in front of friends or family to build confidence.
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6. Organise a speech presentation day.

- Create a supportive environment for students to present their speeches:
 - a) Hold the event in a classroom, assembly, or during a dedicated animal advocacy day.
 - b) Arrange the room with a podium or stage to make it feel special.
- Allow time for a Q&A session after each speech to encourage discussion and engagement.

7. Incorporate visual aids or creative elements.

- Encourage students to use props, posters, or slides to enhance their presentations:
 - a) Photos or drawings of their chosen animal.
 - b) Infographics or charts showing population trends or conservation efforts.
 - c) Videos or sound clips of the animal in their natural habitat.
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8. Reflect on the speeches and their messages.

- Host a group discussion after the presentations to share thoughts and insights:
 - a) "What did you learn about animals and their needs from these speeches?"
 - b) "Which animal's story inspired you the most and why?"
 - c) "What can we do as individuals or a school to help protect these animals?"
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9. Celebrate participants and their efforts.

- Recognise all students for their contributions with certificates, ribbons, or small prizes.
 - Highlight standout speeches with categories like:
 - a) Most Inspiring Presentation.
 - b) Best Use of Visual Aids.
 - c) Most Creative Choice of Animal.
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10. Use the speeches as a springboard for further action.

- Encourage students to turn their speeches into advocacy projects:
 - a) Start a campaign to raise funds or awareness for their chosen animal.
 - b) Write letters to policymakers about issues affecting the animal.
 - c) Organise a school event, such as a bake sale or art exhibition, to support conservation efforts.

Outcomes

- **Empathy and awareness:** Students develop a deeper connection to their chosen animal and a better understanding of their needs and challenges.
- **Research and communication Skills:** The activity enhances students' ability to gather information and present it effectively.
- **Advocacy and action:** Speeches inspire the school community to support animal protection efforts.
- **Confidence and leadership:** Public speaking boosts students' confidence and helps them develop leadership skills.
- **Community engagement:** The event fosters dialogue and collaboration around animal rights and conservation.