

Vegan Education in Schools

Vegan Clubs

Years 7 to 12

Watching animal rights documentaries and rescue videos

Overview

Screening animal rights documentaries and rescue videos is a powerful way to engage students emotionally while educating them about the realities faced by animals. These visual stories can inspire empathy, spark meaningful discussions and motivate students to take action. By showcasing a range of films and videos, students are introduced to different aspects of animal protection, such as wildlife conservation, animal farming and rescue efforts by dedicated organisations.

How to organise screenings of documentaries and rescue videos

1. Choose a variety of documentaries and rescue videos to cover diverse issues.

- Select films and videos that cater to different themes and age groups:
 - a) **Animal farming and veganism:** *Dominion* (with parental consent), *Land of Hope and Glory* (with parental consent) *Eating Animals* or *From Farm to Fork* (11-minute version).
 - b) **Wildlife conservation:** *Racing Extinction* or *The Cove*.
 - c) **Marine life:** *Seaspiracy* or *Blackfish*.
 - d) **Rescue stories:** Videos from local organisations like Edgar's Mission or WIRES.
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2. Include local and international content to provide different perspectives.

- Highlight Australian stories, such as wildlife rescue efforts during bushfires or campaigns supporting animal rights.
 - Balance with international content to show the global scale of animal rights issues.
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3. Use short rescue videos for younger audiences or time-limited sessions.

- For younger students or shorter sessions, feature inspiring rescue videos:
 - a) The journey of an animal saved from animal agriculture.
 - b) Wildlife rescues showing animals returning to their natural habitat.
 - c) Marine animal rehabilitation stories, such as turtles saved from plastic pollution.
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4. Provide context before the screening to set the tone.

- Briefly introduce the documentary or video, explaining its focus and importance.
 - Example: "This video highlights the incredible work of Edgar's Mission, a sanctuary that provides a safe haven for rescued farmed animals."
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5. Facilitate reflective discussions after the screening.

- Engage students with guided questions to encourage critical thinking and empathy:
 - a) "What surprised you the most about what you saw?"
 - b) "How did this film make you feel about the way animals are treated?"
 - c) "What can we do to help address the issues shown in the video?"
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6. Use multimedia tools to create an engaging screening experience.

- Enhance the viewing experience with high-quality visuals and sound:
 - a) Use a projector or large screen for a theatre-like setting.
 - b) Provide headphones for individual viewing if needed.
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7. Tailor the activity for classroom, club or event settings.

- In a classroom: Focus on shorter videos and integrate them into lesson plans.
- In animal rights clubs: Host a longer documentary screening with a group discussion.
- At events: Screen films in an outdoor space or community hall to reach a larger audience.

8. Encourage students to take notes during the screening.

- Provide a worksheet or guide with prompts such as:
 - a) "Write down three facts you learned."
 - b) "What was the most impactful moment of the video?"
 - c) "How does this film connect to other animal rights issues you've learned about?"
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9. Link the screenings to broader campaigns or actions.

- Use the screenings as a launchpad for related activities:
 - a) Plan a fundraiser for a featured organisation.
 - b) Start a student-led campaign addressing one of the issues shown.
 - c) Organise a volunteering day at a local sanctuary or shelter.
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10. Share follow-up resources for further learning.

- Provide links to websites, articles or books that expand on the topics covered in the films.
 - Suggest ways students can stay involved, such as subscribing to newsletters from rescue organisations or following them on social media.
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Outcomes

- **Empathy and awareness:** Students develop a deeper understanding of animal rights issues and the emotional impact of rescue stories.
- **Education and knowledge:** Visual storytelling introduces students to the challenges animals face and the organisations working to help them.
- **Critical thinking:** Reflective discussions encourage students to think deeply about the ethical and environmental implications of animal exploitation.
- **Inspiration to act:** The emotional power of documentaries and videos motivates students to make changes in their lives or advocate for animals.
- **Community building:** Shared viewing experiences foster connections among students and a shared commitment to helping animals.