

CRITICAL THINKING CARDS



Voiceless Critical Thinking Cards are a great tool to get students analysing, debating and reflecting on interesting and complex animal protection issues.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE

Useful Resources for students: www.voiceless.org.au/schools www.voiceless.org.au/hot-topics

DISCUSS

Give students 3-5 minutes per card to discuss with a partner – then swap. Keep rotating both cards and partners.

PERFORM

Implore students to speak from the heart for 1 minute to a partner about the issue. Great as a drama warm-up game.

CREATE

Students respond to the question/issue visually. This could be in the form of a collage, a poster, or an infographic.

PERSUADE

Students pick a card, research the topic, and then plan and write a response which argues a point of view on the issue. Encourage students to access a variety of resources in order to provide evidence to support their claims.

RESEARCH

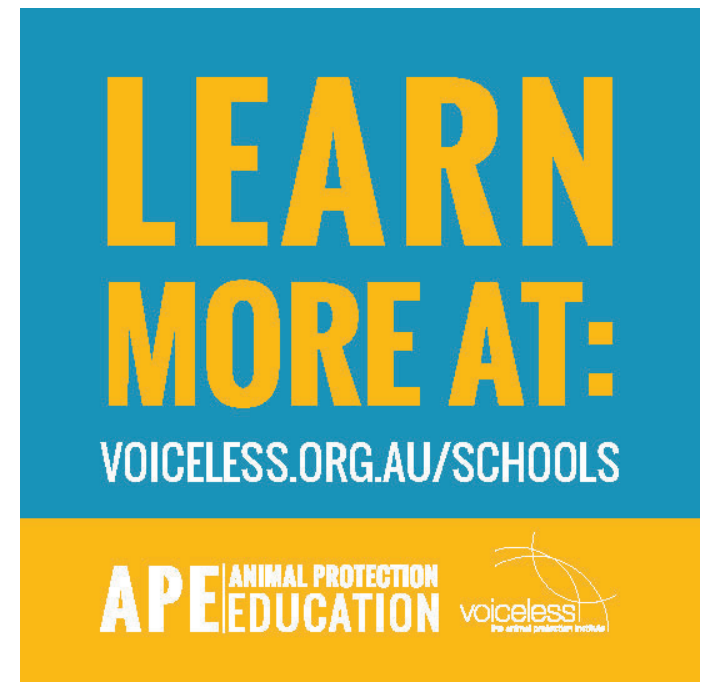
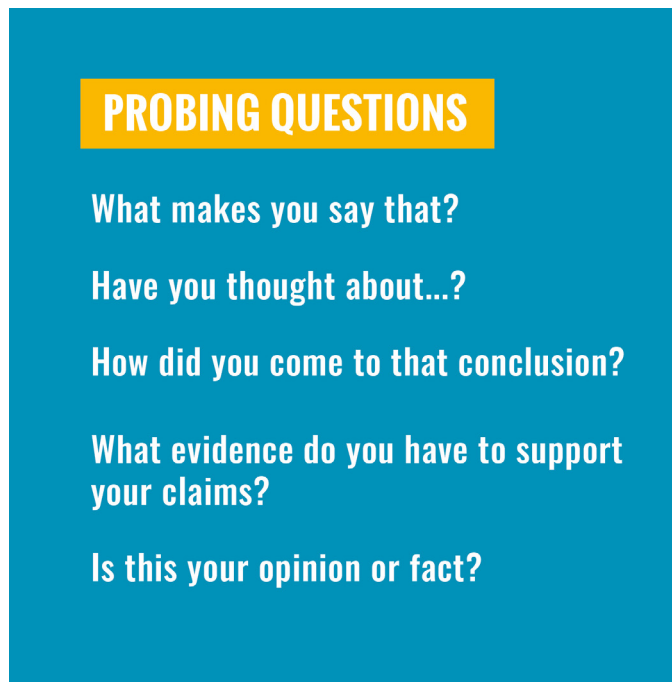
Allocate ONE card per student as a research project. Students then investigate the different views on the issue and present their findings orally or in a written report. Encourage students to use a wide array of sources and to cite these correctly in a bibliography.

EMPATHISE

Students imagine they are the animal represented in the card and write a short response using 1st person narrative voice. Prompt students with questions to guide them. For example:

- How does it feel to be considered voiceless or emotionless?
- What is it like to be held in captivity?
- How does it feel to be viewed as someone's property?
- What is the impact of being treated differently from another animal?





Useful References

Below is a list of useful references for students to use alongside the [Critical Thinking Cards](#).

These references have been selected to include a range of perspectives and contain no graphic footage or images. Voiceless encourages teachers to explore them before using in the classroom to ensure they are appropriate for individual student needs.

ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY

- Arguments For and Against Zoos (Thought Co.)
<https://www.treehugger.com/arguments-for-and-against-zoos-127639>
- What is the RSPCA's View on Petting Zoos and Other Types of Animal Encounters? (RSPCA Australia)
<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-is-the-rspcas-view-on-petting-zoos-and-other-types-of-animal-encounters/>
- Why zoos are good (The Guardian)
<https://www.theguardian.com/science/lost-worlds/2014/aug/19/why-zoos-are-good>
- Wild vs Captive: 10 Things you Didn't Know About Dolphins! (Voiceless, the animal protection institute) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSClz8snP6A>

ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE

- The African Gray Parrot (Encyclopedia Britannica)
<https://www.britannica.com/animal/African-gray-parrot/Intelligence-tests#ref1185650>
- The 'Houdini' Honey Badger... And Other Surprisingly Clever Animals (The Conversation)
<https://theconversation.com/the-houdini-honey-badger-and-other-surprisingly-clever-animals-59126>
- Why the Octopus Brain is so Extraordinary (TedEd)
<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-the-octopus-brain-is-so-extraordinary-claudio-l-guerra>



ANIMAL SENTIENCE

- Are animals sentient? (One Kind Planet)
<https://onekindplanet.org/animal-biology/are-animals-sentient/>
- Here's what the science says about animal sentience (The Conversation)
<https://theconversation.com/heres-what-the-science-says-about-animal-sentience-88047>
- Sentience and Emotion in Animals – An Explanation (SAFE for Animals New Zealand)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWz69pzkaxU>
- What is animal sentience and why is it important? (RSPCA Australia)
<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-is-animal-sentience-and-why-is-it-important/>



ANIMAL RIGHTS & LEGAL PERSONHOOD

- Animals: Property or Persons? (Voiceless, the animal protection institute)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=241srdGOFNk>
- Client: Tommy (Nonhuman Rights Project)
<https://www.nonhumanrights.org/client-tommy/>
- The Modern Animal Rights Movement (Encyclopedia Britannica)
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/animal-rights/The-modern-animal-rights-movement>
- Legal Personhood (Voiceless, the animal protection institute)
<https://voiceless.org.au/schools/legal-personhood/>



ANIMAL CRUELTY

- Animal Cruelty and Neglect FAQ (The Humane Society of the United States)
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/animal-cruelty-and-neglect-faq>
- Our Role in Enforcing the Law (RSPCA Australia)
<https://www.rspca.org.au/what-we-do/our-role-enforcing-law>
- The Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (Voiceless, the animal protection institute)
<https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/>



LIVE EXPORT

- Animal Welfare Overview (LiveCorp)
<https://livecorp.com.au/welfare#Overview>
- Frequently Asked Questions (Animals Australia)
<https://www.animalsaustralia.org/about/faqs.php>
- Live Animal Export Trade (Australian Government -Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment)
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/welfare/export-trade>
- Live Export (Voiceless, the animal protection institute)
<https://voiceless.org.au/hot-topics/live-export/>



ANIMAL FUR & SKIN

- California Becomes First US State to Ban Animal Fur Products (The Guardian)
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/13/fur-ban-california-outlaws-making-and-selling-new-products>
- How Ethical is Fur? (Good on You)
<https://goodonyou.eco/how-ethical-is-fur/>
- Is 'Vegan Leather' a Sustainable Alternative to Animal Leather? (ABC Science)
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2018-05-24/vegan-leather-is-it-a-sustainable-alternative/9774768>
- US Congress to consider ban on kangaroo skin and meat, putting Australian industry at risk (ABC Rural)
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-02-12/us-considers-ban-on-kangaroo-products/13148454>

To access more Animal Protection Education (APE) resources, including videos, fact sheets, podcasts, infographics, teacher guides, quizzes and lesson plans, visit the Voiceless website: www.voiceless.org.au/schools/