

The Avanti PRE Curriculum

Exercise Sheet 7.1.5c

Group Work “Should Humans Kill Animals?”

Teacher: The sheet may be copied and handed out to student groups.. Note that the question is the same for each group, but each should approach it (primarily) from different viewpoints (i.e. according to the ‘ways we make moral decisions’). You might not use all the ‘ways’.

Please discuss the moral question, “**Should we kill animals?**” and write down some answers:

Make sure you use two particular ways of deciding what is right or wrong. Your group’s two ways are highlighted (coloured) in the list below:

1. **Authority:** What have people told you? What does your religion say? What might your parents have told you?
2. **Thinking about it.** What seems most sensible? (Put aside how you feel). What is logical and makes sense?
3. **On principle:** what principle might be involved here (e.g. ‘lying is wrong’ is a principle). Write down principle.
4. **What are the results?** (e.g. what are the results of killing animals? What would be the results of everyone being vegetarian?).
5. **What values/virtues** are involved? What would a good person do? (To help you, look at the six school values’.)
6. **Caring.** What answer might a caring person give?
7. **Doing your duty.** Do we have any duty towards animals? Are we responsible? What are we responsible to do?
8. **Desire to be liked:** if we wish to please others, what answer might we give? If our best friend was a vegetarian, what answer would we give her?
9. **Emotion or desire;** if we looked at our feelings what answer might we give? Perhaps say what your feelings are! (Your feeling might be, “I love to eat meat” or, “I love animals.”)

Extension Question:

Look at the above ‘ways of making moral decisions’ (ways of choosing between right and wrong). Which do you think might be the best? Which might be the worst?
