

Some Legal Aspects of Veganism:

LO Name: Some Legal Aspects and Veganism
Level: A2
Target audience: First year Law students
General goals/objectives: Reading comprehension of legal reports; to expose students to some basic legal vocabulary; to expose students to narratives that combine-indirect and direct speech; to teach students to compare and contrast; to introduce concepts of critical reading.
Specific goals/objectives: Legal content words Grammatical structures-parts of speech Pronunciation Substituting words Separating narrator from speaker Writing both sides of arguments Ethical thinking Critical thinking
Materials needed for activity: Two articles summarizing the prosecution of parents who took veganism too far. Online dictionary, legal dictionary. Projector to show articles online to highlight vocabulary.
Time: 10 academic hours
Overview:
Procedure: Text 1: Vegan baby trial in Queens <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce article with difficult vocabulary and legal terms underlined.• Vocabulary exercises to help understand articles and acquire new vocabulary.• Pronunciation exercise- noun verb change.• Understanding legal terms.• Reading comprehension questions• <i>The narrator v. The speaker</i>• Overall understanding of Article I Text 2: 11 month old baby girl dead <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce article

- Comparing and contrasting information from both articles.
- Finding synonyms
- Cloze exercise
- Transitions that are used to negate.
- Transitions that are used to present both sides of an argument.
- Role Playing
- Writing an opinion

Activity 1 Activities 1-9 are on article one.

A chart with two columns. One for nouns, one for verbs. The words are taken from the text and follow the order of the text. For each vocabulary item either noun or verb is supplied. Student must find corresponding verb or noun.

Activity 2 Pronounce the different parts of speech correctly.

Ex: conviction- noun a convict -noun to convict- verb.

Different sentences should be read using the different parts of speech.

Activity 3 The Matchmaker

Match the legal terms in column one with their definitions in column two.

Activity 4 TRUE or FALSE statements. Correct false statements. This is for both basic comprehension and accurate reading.

Activity 5 *THE NARRATOR v. THE SPEAKER*

Within the narrative, the writer quotes (uses direct speech). Identify the speaker as opposed to narrator by reading what is under quotation marks (direct speech).

Student must list the names and/or jobs of the people the narrator quotes.

Activity 6 Student must then choose three speakers quoted by the narrator and explain what each one says.

Activity 7 Do the speakers add to or detract from the story or message the narrator wishes to convey. Student must answer multiple choice question which sums up this issue.

Activity 8 "I have understood what I have read" The Magnificent Seven (7multiple choice Questions)

Activity 9 Creative Thinking_ Student must choose another possible title and explain his/her choice.

Activity 10 Activities 10-15 are on article two and both articles as a unit.

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Reception / Reading	Overall reading comprehension	Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her field and interest with a satisfactory level of comprehension, i.e., understand most main ideas and supporting details (adapted B1)
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Reception / Reading	Reading for information and argument	Can recognize significant points in straightforward articles on familiar subjects (adapted B1)
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Production / Writing	Overall written production	Can write simple isolated phrases and sentences (A1)
Production / Writing	Creative writing	Can write very short, basic descriptions of events, past activities and personal experiences (A2+)

Production / Speaking	Sustained monologue	Can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions, plans and actions (A2)
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Reception	Identifying cues and inferring (spoken and written)	Can identify unfamiliar words from the context on topics related to his/her field and interests (B1)

Interaction	Compensating	Can paraphrase / can use a simple word meaning something similar to the concept he/she wants to convey and invites "correction" (adapted B1)
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VEGAN BABY TRIAL IN QUEENS

AS YOU COMPLETE THESE EXERCISES, USE A DICTIONARY

Vocabulary Exercises: "Vegan Baby in Queens"

1. In the chart below there is a list of nouns and verbs (which appear in the text as either nouns or verbs). Find the corresponding verb or noun for each. The words follow the order of the text.

NOUN

VERB

EXAMPLE: conviction	to convict
	to starve
description	
	to attract
	to argue
protection	
intervention	
progression	
	to suspect
knowledge	
	to realize
endangerment	
	to choose
	to counsel
adoption	
	to decide

2. Take a look at the following words and learn to pronounce them correctly.

a conviction= noun (The emphasis is put on the second syllable= *vic.*)

a convict=noun- The person who was convicted of the crime and is sitting in jail=prison. (The emphasis is put on the first syllable= *con.*)

to convict=verb (The emphasis is put on the second syllable=*vict.*)

a suspicion= noun (The emphasis is put on the second syllable= *pi.*)

a suspect = noun-The person whom the police think may have committed the crime. (The emphasis is put on the first syllable= *sus.*)

to suspect=verb(The emphasis is put on the second syllable=*pect.*)

3a. THE MATCHMAKER

Column one is a list of legal terms. Column two gives the explanations to these terms. Match the terms in column one with their explanations in column two using the numbers in column one. Put the correct number in the middle column.

<u>COLUMN ONE LEGAL TERMS</u>		<u>COLUMN TWO DEFINITIONS</u>
1. convicted		The lawyer for the defendant- the accused
2. jury		The place where a convicted criminal lives
3. guilty		Defendant is arrested and waits in jail to be put on trial or released
4. charges		12 people listen to the evidence and decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty
5. taken into custody		The person who committed the crime
6. prison		The opposite of innocent
7. prosecutor		What the defendant is accused of
8. a suspect		Found guilty of the crime
9. appeal		The lawyers on the side of the defendant
10. verdict		The punishment given to the guilty defendant
11. offender		The amount of money a defendant needs to order to be released from custody
12. defense		If the defendant was found guilty, he can request that a higher court listen to the case
13. sentence		A person whom the police think may have committed a crime
14. testimony		Decision of the jury
15. bail		Information given by witnesses in court

3b. See how these words are used in the context of the article.

4. Reading Comprehension Questions

State whether each sentence below is *true* or *false*. If the sentence is false, give the correct information.

EXAMPLE: The couple was found not guilty. __FALSE__

The couple was found guilty.

- The couple faces the death penalty. _____

- Ilce has been living in foster care since November 2001 . _____

- Doctors are sure Ilce is not neurologically damaged. _____

- The Swintons' never received prenatal or postnatal counseling. _____

- Mrs. Swinton had always suffered from malnutrition. _____

- This is the first time Mrs. Swinton ever got into trouble with the law. _____

- Mr. and Mrs. Swinton face the same prison sentences. _____

5a. This newspaper article tells the "story" of this case. This is a narrative. Within this narrative, the writer quotes (uses direct speech) of some of the people involved in this case. One of the ways a reader can identify this direct speech is by looking for where "quotation marks" are used.

A. List the names and/or jobs of the people he quotes. B. State the paragraph number after each name.

EXAMPLE: Eric Rosenbaum, prosecutor paragraph 3.

5b. Choose three people who are quoted by the narrator and explain what each one says.

1. PERSON: _____ What does he/she say?

2. PERSON: _____ What does he/she say?

3. PERSON: _____ What does he/she say?

5c. Based on what you have learnt from exercise 5b., circle the most accurate conclusion below regarding the narrator and speakers in this article.

- a.** The speakers in this article provide us with information about vegans, whereas the narrator states his opinion about being vegan.
- b.** The speakers in this article state their opinion about being vegan, whereas the narrator states his opinion about how this couple should be punished.
- c.** The speakers in this article state opinions, whereas the narrator only reports the information without stating any opinion (without taking a stand).
- d.** Both the narrator and the speakers in this provide information, whereas the court states its opinion on being vegan.

6. Circle the best answer:

1. According to the prosecution the Swintons' must be convicted and sentenced to prison because they

- a.** actively killed their baby **b.** starved their baby to death
- c.** overfed their baby **d.** misused the vegan diet

2. By the time the baby was 15 months old, she was:

- a.** brain-damaged **b.** very underweight **c.** unable to eat any dairy products **d.** too weak to be breast fed

3. In their defense, the Swintons' claimed they

- a.** thought a vegan diet was the healthiest food for their baby
- b.** would agree to sit in jail in order to pay for their crime
- c.** never had any evil intentions towards their child
- d.** blamed family and friends for not helping them

4. According to Amy Rosenbaum, what makes these parents guilty is the fact that they
- a. did not take the baby to a doctor when they saw how unhealthy she was
 - b. adopted the wrong vegan diet for their baby
 - c. gave their baby over to foster care without making sure the baby received medical help first
 - d. never received any prenatal or postnatal counseling
5. The defense attorney claimed that the jury returned a guilty verdict because
- a. this jury was made up mostly White people and the couple was Afro-American
 - b. the jury was made aware of Mr. Swinton's criminal record
 - c. most people are against putting young children on vegan diets
 - d. they were very upset when they learnt of the baby's poor medical condition
6. As opposed to Mr. Swinton, Mrs. Swinton was released from custody because
- a. the court had mercy on her
 - b. he had a criminal record
 - c. she was pregnant with another child
 - d. she posted bail while he could not
7. The purpose of this report is to
- a. warn parents against putting their children on vegan diets
 - b. show how merciless juries can be
 - c. show the public how ignorant parents can be
 - d. report this court case to the public

6b. Choose another possible title for this article and explain your choice.

- a. Ignorance Is No Excuse
- b. Parents Vegan their Baby to Death
- c. Alternative Diets for Babies can Kill
- d. Never Meant to Harm My Baby

I chose _____ because ____.

11-MONTH OLD BABY GIRL DEAD IN 2008 --- FRENCH VEGAN PARENTS CHARGED

1. Compare and contrast the information of both articles by filling in the information in the chart below.

	Vegan Baby in Queens	French Vegan Baby
Reason why parents became vegan.		
Babies died as result of:		
Parents were charged with:		
Medical history of babies before death:		
Previous medical care to babies		
Background of parents:		
Defense of parents:		
Verdict of courts:		
Sentences:		

2. Language exercise based on French Vegan Case.

In paragraph 1, what word means "only"? _____

In paragraph 1, what word means "at all"? _____

In paragraph 2, which word means "strength"? _____

In paragraph 4, which word means "an examination after death"? _____

In paragraph 4, which word means "a lack of"? _____

In paragraph 5, which words mean "in the name of"? _____

In paragraph 7 which words mean "understand"? _____

3. Narrator and speakers.

Are the roles of the narrator and speakers the same as in the first article? Prove your answer by giving examples from this text.

4. Complete the following sentences from the words in the bank below. Check that your choice of word is logical and grammatical. Use each choice once. There are four extra words.

1. If parents see that a child is _____ they should seek out medical help to make sure that the child is not suffering from _____.
2. Mothers who breast-feed should undergo tests in order to make sure that they are not suffering from any kind of _____ because this can affect the baby negatively.
3. It is best for a baby to be of _____ weight; not too heavy and not too thin.
4. There is nothing wrong with people who decide to stop eating meat, eggs or dairy products. However, they much find suitable _____ which will provide the body with the nutrients and vitamins needed.
5. Courts will not accept the _____ of parents who claim, they had no _____ towards their child, or had not purposely or not knowingly _____ their child.
6. When a court rules on cases which involve children, in most cases it is the _____ of the children which will affect the court.
7. In today's world, parents will be _____ even if they claim that they were not given any counseling as to how to be children _____.
8. In a modern country, _____ is no defense.

BANK

ignorance	average	convicted	underweight
alternatives	prosecutions	care-givers	vitamin deficiency
defense	best interests	jury	evil intentions
neglecting	neglected	malnutrition	verdict

5. By looking at the other side of the coin, you are creating the beginning of an argument.

Choose the correct transition- (connecting word) and the sentence which provides the other side of the coin from the transition and sentence banks below. Fill these in the chart.

EXAMPLE: I love leather chairs.	Using the skin of animals for chairs is selfish.
I love leather chairs, although,	using the skin of animals for chairs is selfish.
Parents who put their child on a strict vegan diet, without medical counselling, must pay close attention to his/her physical and mental development.	
A balanced diet which includes meat and dairy-products is healthy.	
Parents should enjoy the right to feed their children what they believe suits their religious and cultural beliefs,	
My three older boys have been vegans since birth and are healthy and strong,	
Every few years new eating trends become fashionable.	

TRANSITION BANK

Personally,	on the other hand,	This is true regarding	However,	on the condition that
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SENTENCE BANK

parents who put their child on any type of diet.
I am happy with the old fashion diet of meat and potatoes as are most men I know.
my youngest son takes vitamins because he is underweight and sickly.
this does not affect their physical and mental development negatively.
many people who exclude meat and dairy products from their diets are healthy too.

6. CLASS ORAL OR WRITTEN ACTIVITIES

The final sentence of this newspaper report states:

As she was led from the courtroom after being taken into custody, Mrs. Swinton called out to her mother, "Tell Ilce and Inl that I love them."

Do you believe her? Explain

Below are roles you are to take on. Choose one of the cases and prepare one role.

- You are a pediatrician (=children's doctor) who firmly believes that a vegan diet is dangerous for children. You are asked to give your expert opinion in court. Give your opinion.
- You are an alternative medical specialist who has guided many families on vegan diets. Convince the court that the problem in this case was not a vegan diet, but something else.
- You are the prosecutor in this case. Present the basic facts to the jury and then make your closing argument.
- You are the defense attorney in this case. Defend your clients and make your closing arguments.
- You are the trial judge in this case. After the jury has convicted the couple, give your sentence and state your reasoning for this sentence.

7. CRITICAL READING

The titles of both cases state that the babies were vegan. After reading both cases, do you think that the fact that the parents were vegan was the primary cause of the death of their babies? Explain

Below are words which you might want to include in your arguments.

extremists, fanatics, indifferent, cruelty to animals, the middle road, responsibility, caution, a balance i