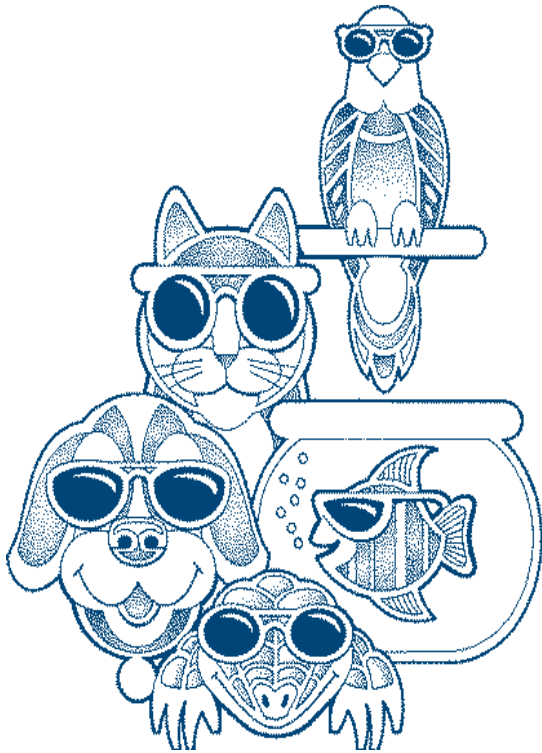


# On Writing a Law: No Animals in the Library<sup>1</sup>

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This lesson is designed for students in kindergarten through second grade. Through this exercise, students will begin to understand what a law is and how to write one. You will guide them through a series of questions to help them determine if the law is fair and just. If the students determine that it is not a good law, then ask them to help you rewrite it.



To begin the lesson, read the book, “I Took My Frog to the Library” by Eric Kimmel, to the students. After you finish reading the book aloud, write on the board: “No animals in the library.” Tell the students that this will be a new rule/law in their school. Ask them what they think about this rule. You most likely will hear emotional responses and will need to guide them in their thinking. The following are some questions to help you direct their thinking to the legal process:

- Is the rule/law written in clear language?
- Is the rule/law understandable?
- Does the rule/law contradict any other law in the school?
- Is the rule/law enforceable?
- What penalties would you suggest when this rule/law is broken?  
Are these penalties reasonable?

Finally, ask them if the library law is a good law. If they answer “no,” then help them rewrite it using the board.

<sup>1</sup> Kimmel, Eric. *I Took My Frog to the Library*. Puffin Books, 1960.