

This comic is part of
**Learning to Engage: Movements and
Sociocultural Theories of Learning.**

for more, visit:
andrewkohan.com/learningtoengage

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To find out more about the research presented in this comic, go check out:

Vea, T. (2020). The learning of emotion in/as sociocultural practice: The case of animal rights activism. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 29(3), 311–346.

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GUIDED EMOTION PARTICIPATION

by Tanner Vea
(with Rainn)



Context: Animal Rights Activism

Emotion is really important to how people
figure out what's right and what's wrong.

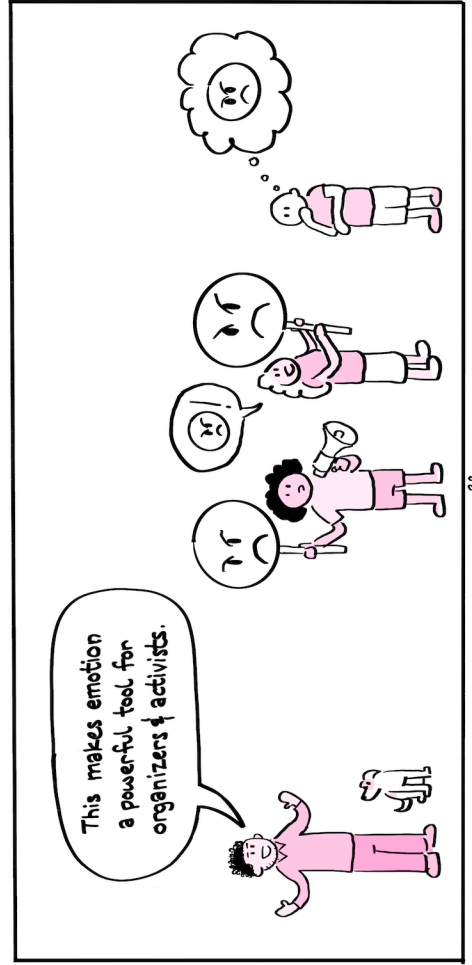
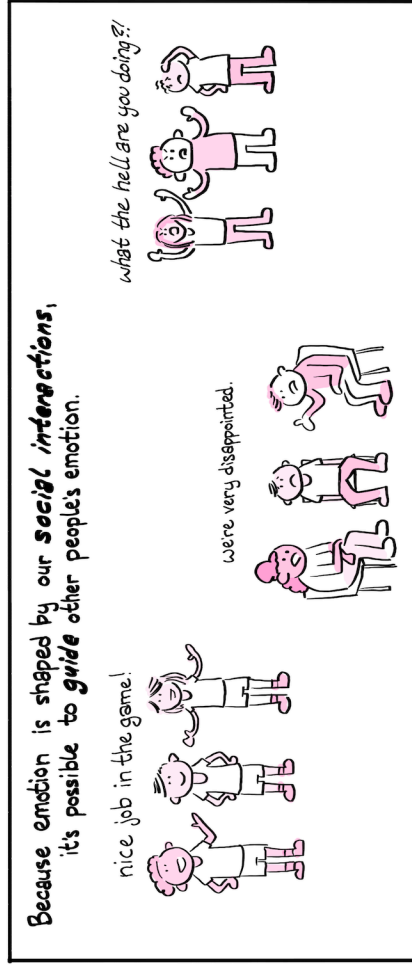
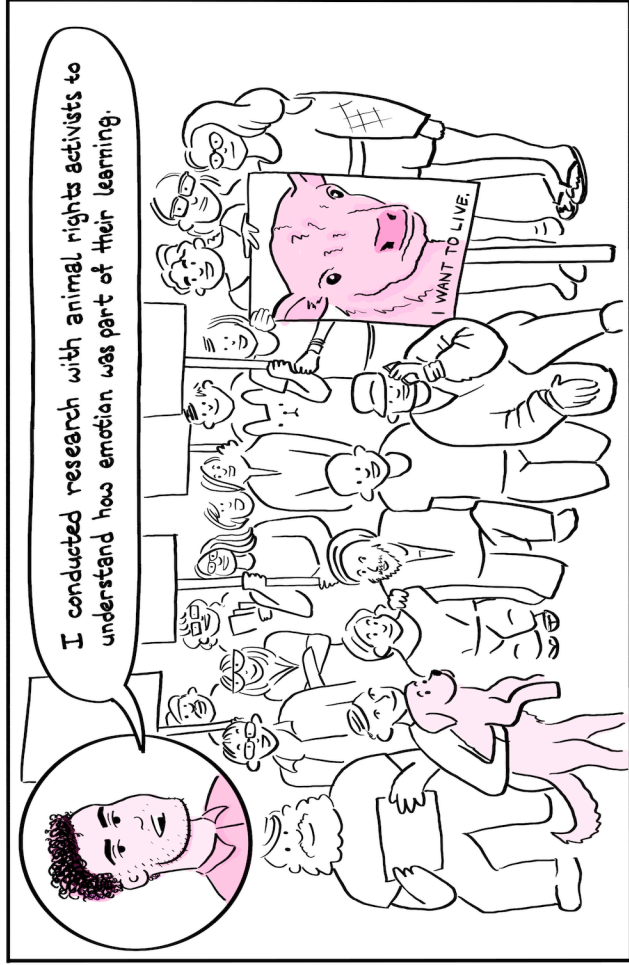
Our *moral emotions*, like those we label
as anger and shame, guide our behavior.

He *pushed*
me!

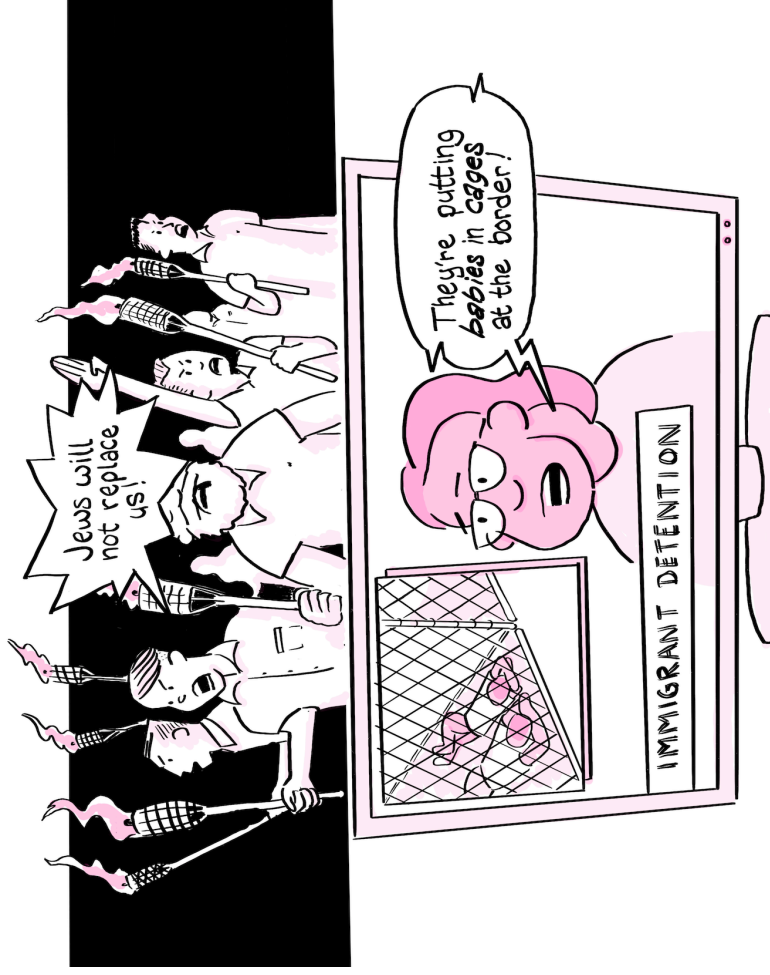


I'm *sorry*.





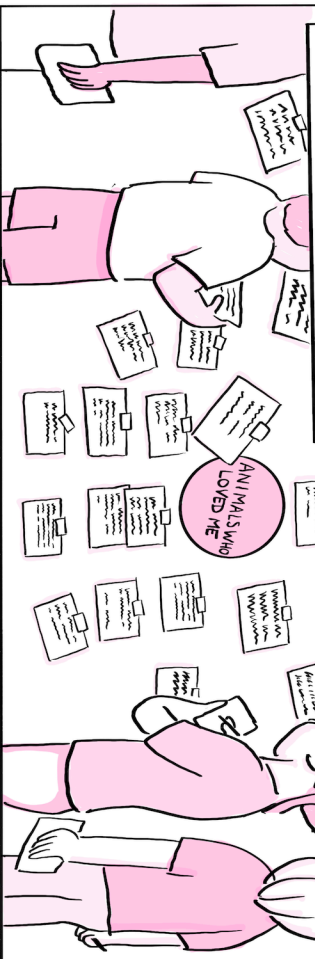
Now, I can't help but see people learning to do emotion *everywhere* in politics:



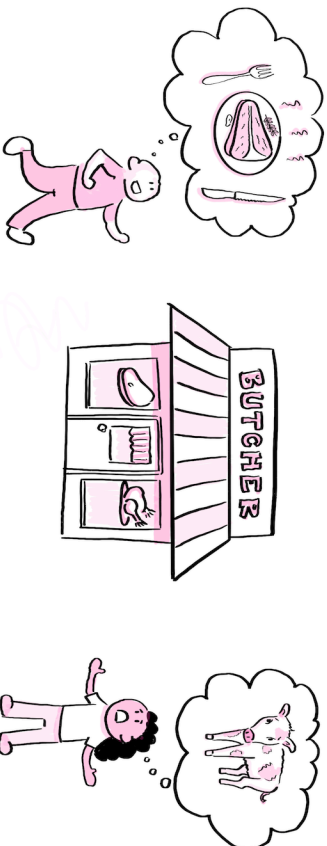
How does that make you feel?

What are you going to do about it?

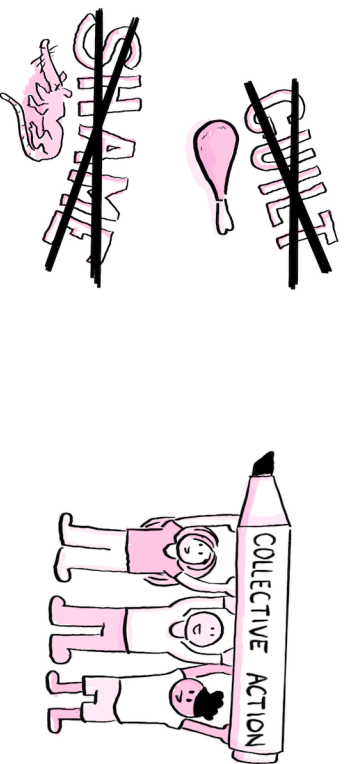
This activity got the activists to participate in sharing feelings of guilt that brought them into alignment with each other about their moral cause.



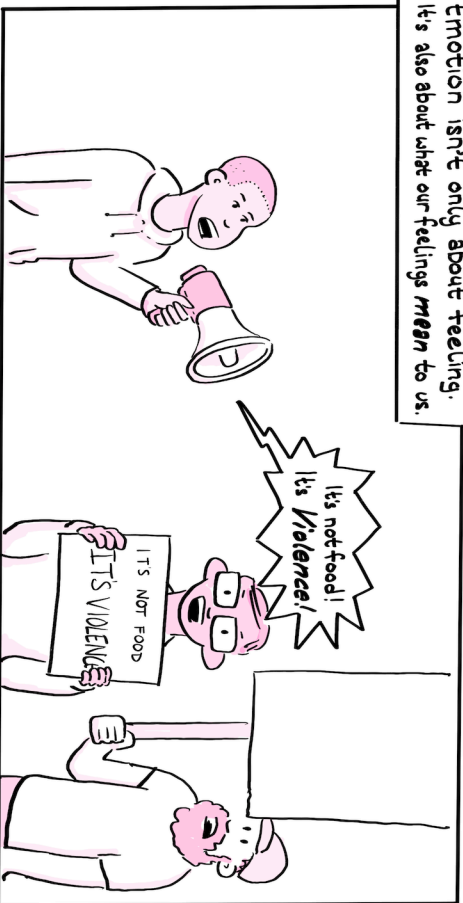
It was a way of creating agreement about a particular way of seeing (and *feeling*) the world.



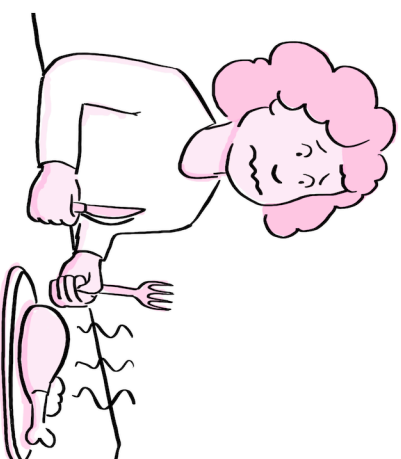
For the animal rights activists, guided emotion participation helped keep activists engaged in movement work.



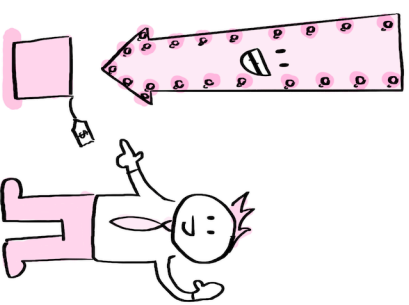
Emotion isn't only about feeling. It's also about what our feelings *mean* to us.



Emotion can turn eating from a normal, everyday activity into a moral question.



Particular ways of using emotion to guide others can make it more likely for people to think in certain ways and do certain things.



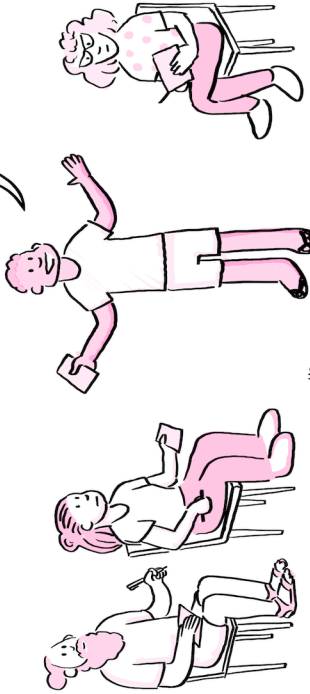
I call this **guided emotion participation**.

It's something people do together to evoke feelings together and get synched up about what those feelings mean.

At a workshop for animal rights activists, an organizer named Carter handed out cards.

MEMORIALIZING THE NONHUMAN'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES	
1. An animal who loved me: Animals play a profound role in shaping our lives, and preserving their lives is important for their well-being. Today, we memorialize them.	2. An animal I helped:
3. An animal I failed:	

For each section of the card, Carter told everyone in the audience to think of an animal and write something about them they would be proud of

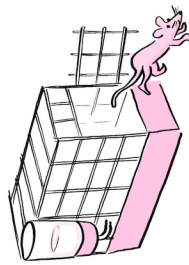


Later, people at the workshop shared what they wrote.

For "an animal I failed", people expressed a lot of emotion.



I rescued an injured rat in my apartment building...



...but then he escaped the cage...



...my neighbors found him...

...and killed him.

