

GO WILD IN NEW YORK CITY

Conflict resolution

Pets are an essential part of New Yorkers' lives. Everybody loves them, and it has been estimated that pet cats, snakes, turtles, hamsters and fish outnumber all the humans in the city. Some buildings allow residents to have pets, while others do not. Imagining that you live on a pet-friendly building, what would you do if your neighbors' dogs are too noisy and you cannot sleep at night? Or if you are allergic to your next door neighbor's cat?

In this conflict resolution activity, students will work in small groups to create cases related to conflicts between neighbors originated by pets. Then, they will be asked to create a list of possible solutions for the problem. That list of solutions will help them to support their position in a role-playing activity in which other groups will play the pet owner's role. The goal of the activity is that different groups can reach a consensus about how to resolve the conflict in a peaceful way.