



## **GROWING YOUR COMPASION FOOTPRINT**

### **Student Learning Outcome:**

- explore how their worldview is shaped by their personal values, identity, cultural rules and biases, acknowledging and reflecting on how this shapes their relationships to animals.
- analyze global issues and challenges, their histories, and impacts by analyzing issues and challenges to the coexistence of animals and humans by discovering and critically examining the ways in which humans relate to and/or use animals in their everyday lives.

### **Prompt:**

You have been hired by a Federal wildlife commission to help educate a neighborhood about the significance of living with animals as opposed to viewing them as creatures in our way. Your mission is to help them understand why expanding their compassion footprint is valuable to them, and how to begin expanding it despite the fact that animals are “invading” their space. Select one of the following scenarios with which to work.

- ✓ Ranchland, USA: A rural community is outraged when, over the course of several months, two horses and five head of cattle have been killed by big cats. Residents want permission to hunt and destroy all mountain lions and panthers.
- ✓ Urban Utopia, USA: An affluent community has been having problems with Black bears. Residents wake to find their trash overturned, and while no humans or animals have been harmed, residents are afraid for their safety and frustrated with the bears. They want them destroyed.
- ✓ The Burbs, USA: In a quaint little subdivision known for its exquisite lawns and gardens, white-tail deer have been running amuck. They are marking up lawns and eating flower gardens. Residents are not only upset, but one has killed a deer in an attempt to begin eradicating the problem. Another resident reported the shooting, which violated multiple local and state laws and ordinances. Nobody is happy.

### **Instructions and Format:**

1. First, you must understand where you stand in relation to the situation. If it were you and you alone, what might you do?
2. Once you clarify this, you should put yourself in the shoes of the people in the scenario you chose. What might their values be? What is important to them? Ask yourself two fundamental questions: 1) how do you explain to them the importance of humans living a balanced life with animals, and 2) how specifically might they do so and solve the dilemma that have?
3. Begin your essay with an introductory paragraph in which you make an argument about the significance of non-human animals in our lives, and how you will present this idea to a community with values that may differ very much from your own.

4. In the body of your essay, you should systematically reflect and analyze the scenario, including your vision of these people and what is important to them. Yes, I am asking you to generalize some beyond what we may have read, but know that each of these scenarios has occurred, to some degree, in this country.\* These “details” are what will help you create a strategy.
5. In your conclusion, reflect on and analyze how the change(s) you propose can make a difference. Also discuss what you see as potential barriers to the success of your program.
6. Your essay should be approximately 2000-2500 words (not including citations & bibliography).

**Course:** SYP 4675 Animals & Society

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