



WE ARE NEW YORK

Conversation Group Plan



Before You Watch (30–45 minutes)

1 Introductions (10-15 minutes)

Welcome everyone and bring everyone together in a circle. Say your name, where you come from, where you live, and one thing you like about New York City (or a word from the previous meeting). Then have people introduce themselves, following your example.

Example: My name is _____. I come from _____. I live in _____. I like _____.

2 Picture Discussion (10-15 minutes)

- SAY:** *I have some pictures from today's show. Before we watch, let's talk about the pictures.*
- Hand out the pictures (1 picture to 2-3 people). Say the questions on the pictures and have the partners talk with each other about them. (**If you have a group with very limited English**, help people list things and actions they see in the pictures.)
- After a few minutes, bring people together for a whole-group discussion. **SAY:** *I want to hear your ideas.* (See the tips for getting everyone to talking in the Guide for Conversation Group Leaders.)
- SAY:** *Those are great ideas. We'll watch the show and see what happens.*

3 Important Words (10-15 minutes)

- SAY:** *Before we watch, here are a few important words you will hear.*
- Hand out one copy of the "Important Words" sheet to each person. Have people look it over with a partner.
- Talk about one word at a time. Help the group build the meaning of a word by piecing their ideas together. Use gestures, actions and drawings to help understanding.
- Have the group practice saying the words out loud. Have partners say the sample sentences and ask each other the questions.

Show the Episode (30 minutes–1 hour)

- SAY:** *The name of the story is _____. While you watch, look for the pictures we talked about. (Hold up the pictures.) Listen for the words. (Hold up the handout.)*
- Pause the video after key scenes. Tell people to turn to a partner, and look at the pictures and the "Important Words." **ASK:** *What did you learn about the people in the picture? Who are they? Where are they? What's going on? Talk about it with your partner.*
- Ask for people's ideas in a whole-group discussion. Ask what people think will happen next. Then play the next scene(s).

After You Watch (30 minutes–1 hour)

1 Discussion (20-45 minutes)

- a. **SAY:** *That's the show! We'll talk about it together, but first talk about it with a partner(s). Look at the pictures and words again. What did you see and learn?*
- b. Give the partners a few minutes to talk freely. Then get everyone's attention.
SAY: *I want to hear your ideas. Tell me what you think. Anyone can start. Give everyone a chance to speak. ASK* some of these questions to further the discussion:

Questions about characters (people) in the story:

- *Who is your favorite character? Why?*
- *What does she (or he) do or say that you liked?*

Questions about solving problems:

- *What is the problem in the story? What do people in the story do to solve this problem? What do friends do? What does the family do?*
- *Do you know anyone who has a problem like this? Would you like to tell us about it? What happened?*
- *What can people do to help solve these problems? What can friends, family and other people do?*

Questions about services and learning:

- *Where can you go in New York City to get services (help)?*
- *Who can you call? What can you say?*
- *What words and information did you learn from the episode today?*

- c. **ASK:** *What questions do you have about the story or words in the story? What else do you want to know? SAY:* *With a partner, make or write one question each. Give the partners a few minutes to practice making questions. Then ask everyone to say one question to the whole group. (You don't need to answer the questions. Refer people to 311 for important information about topics that may come up.)*

2 Wrap-Up (10-15 minutes)

- a. **SAY:** *Before we go, say one thing you want to do, or one new word you want to use, or one thing you learned from today's show. First, say your name and where you come from again, so we all know each other. (Give an example for people in the group to follow.)*
- b. Before leaving, have people write down the time and date of the next meeting.
- c. **SAY:** *See you at (time) on (date). We'll watch another episode and practice more English together.*

For Your Reference

Actions People Can Take

These are some ways for people to take action in their real lives. Suggest some of these ideas that seem relevant to the discussion.

Important note for group members about 311:

When you call 311, you can use your first language. Here are the steps:

- First, listen to the recording.
- When the 311 operator starts to talk, say the name of your language and they will find someone who can help you. You might have to wait a short time. Don't hang up!

Welcome Parents

- Call 311 and ask for the telephone number of your child's school. You can also ask for the number of the Parent Coordinator.
- Call the Parent Coordinator. Make an appointment to see him or her. (The Parent Coordinator can help you get an interpreter and translated documents.)
- Make an appointment to see your child's teacher. The Parent Coordinator can help.
- Talk to other parents at the school. Find out how they got help for their children.
- Every school district has a District Family Advocate who offers extra help. Call 311 for the name, phone number, and address of the District Family Office.

Stay in School

- Call 311 and ask for the telephone number of your child's school. You can also ask for the number of the Parent Coordinator and the Guidance Counselor.
- Call the Parent Coordinator or the Guidance Counselor, and make an appointment to see him or her. (The Parent Coordinator can help you get an interpreter and translated documents.)
- Make an appointment to see your child's teacher. The Parent Coordinator can help.
- Talk to other parents at the school. Find out how they get help for their children. Ask about other programs or schools that can help your child.
- If you want to study for a GED diploma (high school equivalency), call 311 or go to the WANY Website (www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish) and click on "Mayor's Office of Adult Education" to find out about free GED programs near you.

Love and Money

- Call 311 to find a Financial Empowerment Center where you can get help with your money. They can help you find a bank or credit union.
- Call 311 for free help with your taxes. Ask about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You may be able to get money back from taxes.
- Visit the banks and credit unions in your neighborhood. Bring a friend with you.
- Ask the bank or credit union for a written explanation of all the fees they charge for having an account.

Ask about fees for:

- Using an ATM or debit card.
- Having less money in your account than the minimum balance.
- Cashing checks.
- Writing a check for more money than you have in your account.
- Sending money to your family.

New Life Café

- Call 311 to find out about getting low-cost health insurance for you and your family.
- Visit the doctor to check your:
 - Blood Sugar
 - Blood Pressure
 - Cholesterol
- Bring a friend or family member to the doctor with you. They can help you understand. Ask the doctor to slow down, and repeat what you don't understand.
- Ask for a free interpreter in City hospitals.
- Drink water instead of soda, alcohol, juice or other drinks that have a lot of sugar.
- If you have diabetes, take your medicine every day.
- Exercise and keep moving. Take a walk with a friend.

Asthma: The Soap Opera

- Call 311 to find out about getting low-cost health insurance for you and your child.
- Make sure your child has a regular doctor. A regular doctor will get to know your child and will help you to manage his or her health.
- If you have asthma, ask your doctor about an Asthma Action Plan. Ask him or her to go over the plan with you.
- For more help call the Asthma Action Line: 1-800-ASTHMA-0; 1-800-278-4620.
- Find out what makes your child's asthma worse and avoid those triggers.

No Smoking

- Find a good reason to quit and pick a date to stop smoking.
- Call 311 and ask for a Quit Smoking program near you. Or call 1-866-NY-QUITS; 1-866-679-8487, for free.
- Visit your doctor. He or she can help you quit smoking.
- If you have a friend or family member who wants to quit smoking, become their Quit Buddy. Tell them to call you when they want a cigarette. Offer to go for a walk or do exercise together.
- Visit www.nysmokefree.com or www.nyc.gov/quitsmokingtoday.

The Wedding

- Call 311 and ask for NYC Workforce1 Career Centers to find out about jobs.
- With a friend from the group, go to a subway booth and ask for a subway map. Then practice reading it together. Find the fastest way from the conversation group to your home and to work.
- Visit www.nyc.gov/sbs to get more information about starting a small business in New York City.

Stop Domestic Violence

- If you need help right away, call 911. If you need information and support, call the Domestic Violence Helpline at 1-800-621-4673. Ask for help to make a “safety plan”.
- If you want to help a friend or family member, talk to him or her. Let him or her know that you will be there for support. Let the victim make the decisions.
- Do not talk to the abuser. It can make things worse. Let the victim get professional help.
- You can visit these websites for more information:
 1. www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence
 2. www.safehorizon.org
 3. www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

The Hospital

- Visit the City’s free and low-cost museums. For example, you can pay as little as you want at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History. Call 311 or visit www.nyv.gov/culture to find out more.
- Visit your local library and get a calendar of events. Libraries have performances and art exhibits for free, for adults and young people. Call 311 to get the address and phone number of the closest library.
- Visit www.nyc.gov/immigrant and find out more about Immigrant Heritage Week in April.

**For information about free English classes in New York City,
call 311 or go to www.nyc.gov/AdultEnglish.**