

EYE 129 The Chicken Ordinance  
In-class activity

Group Members \_\_\_\_\_  
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Time estimates

30 minutes: Write ordinance

20 minutes : Discuss/compare ordinances

10 minutes: Collaborate to select the best parts for a final ordinance as a class product

Choose: \_\_\_ Rural or \_\_\_ Urban zone

You have learned about keeping chickens, zoning, and land use regulation through reading, guest speakers and videos. Now you will write an ordinance for the town of Zal (population 10,000). The ordinance will address small-scale keeping of poultry.

Keep in mind the characteristics of a good ordinance:

- It should be concise, yet anticipate that people may try to stretch its meaning.
- It needs to be enforceable.
- It needs to be reasonable.
- It should balance the rights of property owners with the public good.

Refer to the list of potential problems and to the list of things a town might want to regulate that we generated in class on Thursday. In addition, you might consider the following: Should there be fees? Should there be permits? Who issues the permit and how? (e.g., zoning officer, planning board, committee, apply via internet.) What about appeals of decisions? Should the ordinance only be about chickens or should it include other animals?

Begin by choosing to focus on a rural or an urban zone.

Decide whether your regulations will be **Performance standards** (for example “chickens shall not be a nuisance,” **Design specifications** (for example, “Shall have no more than five chickens and no roosters,” or some combination.

Now write the ordinance: Zal \_\_\_\_\_ Zone Poultry Ordinance