

**Workshop 7: Taming Wild Beasts****Reading 2 Project: Wild Pets**  
**Gator Trouble**

*Do wild animals make good pets?*

**Project:** Write a letter about the Boykos's alligators to the mayor of your town.

**Procedure****1. Generate ideas.**

Review the magazine article on pages 168–170 of your *rBook*. Imagine you live next door to the Boykos. Which of these opinions do you agree with?

- Alligators are dangerous. They should be in a zoo or out in the wild—not in my neighborhood!
- Having alligators is fine. The Boykos aren't harming anyone. People should mind their own business.

Write down a few notes about the opinion you agree with.

**2. Write.**

Write a letter to the mayor telling your opinion. Remember, you want the mayor to listen to you. So be sure to give reasons to support your ideas. Try this format:

- Explain the purpose of the letter.
- Explain what the problem is.
- Tell how you feel about the Boykos keeping the alligators.
- Finish by thanking the mayor for reading your letter.

**3. Present.**

Type your letter on the computer. Remember to use a greeting (*Dear Mayor Jones*). Also include a closing (*Sincerely*). Share it with your group or class.