Title: the urban environment in cinema and television
Authors: Ioannis Xydakis, Zoe Spanoudi

The scenario can be taught in a computer lab or in a classroom equipped with an interactive whiteboard. In the latter case, the students should use mobile devices (tablets, mobile phones) provided by the school, or brought by themselves. It is also suitable for online teaching. However, all of the activities can be adapted to be used without technology, in case a computer lab or mobile devices are not available, or if there is no internet connection in the school. The alternatives are provided in the scenario.

1st Teaching period: the background in "realistic" movies"

1st Activity:

Time: 10'
Type of activity: Warm up activity – Brainstorming activity: what is "a city"
Class organization: whole class
Actions/Tasks: students are provided with a collaborative digital word wall (padlet) on which they are asked to write a few words about what are the main characteristics of a modern city environment (set of building, dwelling, large population, etc.) They can also upload photos of New York City.

2nd Activity:"

Time: 20'

Type of activity: Interactive group activity the background of "Friends" (**1994-2004) and "Home Alone 2**: *Lost in New York* (1992)

Class organization: 2 groups

Actions/Tasks: students are divided in 2 groups and are asked to use worksheet 1 and worksheet 2. They can see photos and summaries from "Friends" and "Home Alone 2" in order to detect the characteristics of the city that is **the background of the movie** and the tv show. They can also find the trailers (YouTube). Each group presents their answers and the whole class discussion follows.

3rd Activity:

Time: 15'

Type of activity: productive discussion
Class organization: whole class

Actions/Tasks: Students are encouraged to discuss the way "the city" works in these "realistic" movies/shows. With the appropriate questions, the teacher helps them realize that the movies do not really show how a city is or how it works. They do not show the routine or everyday life of Manhattan's residents, they do not show the everyday problems. In fact, the city works as a "curtain" in order to persuade, to give credibility.

Do we watch during the movie/TV show the way the city functions? Can we conceive the daily life of its residents? What about the main problems that they have to deal with?
How does a 20 – 30 years old young man /woman spend his life in Manhattan? Compare his/her life with the "reality" that "Friends" presents

Homework:
Rewrite the summaries of "Friends" and "Home Alone 2" assuming that the action takes place in some other place (a small town or even a village). In what way will that affect the plot or the characters?

2nd Teaching period: the background in fictional movies

1ˢᵗ Activity:

Time:20'

Type of activity: Interactive group activity the background of Spider-Man 2 (2004) and Ghostbusters (1984)

Class organization: 2 groups

Actions/Tasks: students are again divided in 2 groups and now they are asked to use worksheet 3 and worksheet 4. They can see photos and summaries from Spider-Man **2** and **Ghostbusters** in order to detect the characteristics of the city that is **the background of the movies**. They can also find the trailers (YouTube). Each group presents their answers and the whole class discussion follows.

2ⁿᵈ Activity:"
Time: 15'

Type of activity: writing

Class organization: 2 groups

Actions/Tasks: students rewrite the summaries of **Spider-Man 2** and **Ghostbusters** assuming that the action takes place **in some other place** (a small town or even a village). In what way will that affect the plot or the characters?

3ʳᵈ Activity:
Time: 10'

Type of activity: productive discussion
Class organization: whole class

Actions/Tasks: Students are encouraged to discuss the way "the city" works in these "fictional" movies and compare it with how it appears in "realistic" ones. With the appropriate questions, the teacher helps them realize that in these movies there is more information about everyday rhythm and the main characters behave more like ordinary citizens than the main characters in realistic movies! They have jobs and everyday problems. The superheroes are more ordinary and the ordinary people behave like superheroes!