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**Compelling Question: How does environmental racism impact communities of color?**

1. **What is Environmental Racism, AJ+, YouTube video**

This video summarizes the general background of environmental racism by defining what it is, illustrating what caused it, and finally naming specific examples in the United States. There are examples in the video of well-known towns in the United States affected by environmental racism, such as Flint and Detroit, Michigan, and Cancer Alley in Louisiana. Robert Bullard, the father of environmental racism, is quoted throughout the video. They also address the relationship of environmental racism to lack of political power in communities of color. The video concludes with why it has been challenging to combat environmental racism but recognizes the need to change it. Overall, this video summarizes how environmental racism occurs and its effects, which sets a strong foundation for the other text sources. [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrbeuJRPM0o**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrbeuJRPM0o)

1. **Maya’s Lot, Charlie La Greca and Rebecca Bratspies, comic book**

This comic book educates middle school-aged students about environmental racism through the main character named Maya. It illustrates her education about environmental racism and then her journey fighting environmental injustices in her community. Although there is added information for engagement purposes, the book describes the causes behind environmental racism, including LULU (locally unwanted land use) and its destructive effects on the community. The story plot line tells readers that environmental racism is a problem that needs a solution and that community action can help. There is some comedy and added content in the comic book unrelated to environmental racism, but it keeps the reader engaged with the overall lesson of the story. [**http://cuer.law.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01//MayahEJ\_Digest.reduced%20final%20version.pdf**](http://cuer.law.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01//MayahEJ_Digest.reduced%20final%20version.pdf)

1. **Disproportionate impacts in Minnesota (Images only), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, images**

A Minnesota group trying to gain research to support their advocacy of environmental justice and regulations of pollutants published the visualizations. The images compare and contrast the disparities between communities of color and low-income with more privileged communities to see the effects of air pollution. While the focus of the unit is on environmental racism, these images show that other characteristics can cause environmental injustices too. However, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) are disadvantaged the most. The first image looks at air quality risk and how BIPOC are at a much higher risk of poor air quality. The second image looks at the location near a polluting site which shows how BIPOC disproportionately live near landfills, factories, etc. The last image breaks down data by race, which shows how air pollution affects different races. Overall, the clear visualizations communicate the data clearly to viewers.

[**https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/disproportionate-impacts-minnesota**](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/disproportionate-impacts-minnesota)

1. **'Climate Change Is Racial Injustice': Students Speak Their Truth In Winning Podcast, NPR, Radio Show**

This segment on NPR is about a podcast that high schoolers in Brooklyn put together about environmental racism. The six high school students won a podcast competition sponsored by NPR and decided to connect climate change to racism and current events such as the Black Lives Matter movement. Although there are facts about environmental racism and the research that the students conducted for the podcast, the personal experiences and stories of the students and finding their voices through talking about climate change and racism is meaningful. They stress the importance of finding an issue that you care about and then advocating for it in any way you can. Also, the students connect other current events such as BLM and past environmental disasters to environmental racism to make it more relatable to students who are familiar with those events.

[**https://www.npr.org/2020/06/17/879041024/brooklyn-students-win-student-podcast-challenge-with-show-on-race-and-climate-ch**](https://www.npr.org/2020/06/17/879041024/brooklyn-students-win-student-podcast-challenge-with-show-on-race-and-climate-ch)

1. **Why COVID-19 is an environmental justice issue, NowThis News, YouTube video**

This video connects environmental racism and its impacts with the current event of the COVID-19 pandemic. People may not think that environmental racism is related to the pandemic, but this video communicates that disproportionate rates of COVID-19 in BIPOC are related to environmental racism. These communities face higher pollution and leachate effects from factories, landfills, etc., that put them at a higher risk for health conditions. These health conditions are what increase someone's risk for COVID-19. Although it is a relatively complex concept, it pushes students to relate environmental racism to current events and issues that affect them. They provide suggestions on how to help combat environmental racism, which is a crucial step in transforming the oppression. [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFTd6oWfgo4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFTd6oWfgo4)