

How is my environmental risk related to my race/social class?

How does this impact me? Let's explore different articles that explore how different groups of people are affected by pollution.

Text: “Racial, ethnic minorities and low-income groups in U.S. exposed to higher levels of air pollution” (Source: Harvard News)

Excerpt from the article: (January 12, 2022)

“Boston, MA – Certain groups in the U.S.—Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Latinos, and low-income populations—are being exposed to higher levels of dangerous fine particulate **air pollution** (PM_{2.5}) than other groups, according to new research from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.”

History of Los Angeles

[Text](#): “How We Got This Way (Los Angeles has Always Been Suburban)” ([Source](#): KCET)

Excerpt from the article: (December 12, 2011)

“When the city's first immigrants from Mexico finished their walk west from Mission San Gabriel in 1781 and climbed up from the bank of the little river that gave Los Angeles its name, they saw smoke rising from the cooking fires of the Tongva village of Yang-na in the folds of the hillocks around them.

The colonial town the new arrivals founded would remain dependant on the Native American village for labor for the next 75 years, but the new town was distinct from the village in every way possible. The Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles was a creation of 18th century rationalism, most of all in its abstract grid of streets drawn on sheet of notepaper by Governor de Neve before the first house was built.”

Migration in Los Angeles Continued...

[Text: The Great Migration: Creating a New Black Identity in Los Angeles](#)

[\(Source: KCET\)](#)

Excerpt from the article: (February 15, 2012)

“Before this grand shift, the Black community in Los Angeles had been rooted in a more complex Black identity with Mexicans of mixed-African descent. By 1821, Mexico abolished slaves as part of the Trans-Atlantic trade and thus were allowed to assimilate earlier into a society that later became America following the Mexican-American War. The Black community in Los Angeles then grew from a successive stream of small migrations, beginning in 1848 with the California Gold Rush during which more than 5,000 Blacks made their way to California by 1860.”



Migration in Los Angeles Continued...

Text: “Immigrant Communities in Central Los Angeles”
(Source: [Neighborhood Data for Social Change](#)**)**

Excerpt from the article:

“The history of immigration in Los Angeles is complex and intermingled with a history of unjust policies and untold stories. Today, Los Angeles County is home to nearly 3.5 million immigrants, over a third of the county’s total population according to the American Community Survey (ACS). Although Los Angeles is one of the most diverse cities in the country, ethnic-rich communities are segregated and often socially and economically isolated. Recently, Los Angeles declared itself a sanctuary city – a symbolic gesture of supporting the immigrant population and committing to protect their rights. Taking leadership on immigrant integration can make Los Angeles a model for welcoming immigrants culturally, politically, and institutionally.”



Photo Credit taken from
la.myneighborhoodata.org

Migration in Los Angeles Continued...

[Text](#): “[Essay: 1921-present: Modern California- Migration. Technology, Cities](#)” ([Source](#): [Calisphere University of California](#))

Excerpt from the essay:

“The number of Native Americans living in California rose steadily after 1900, reversing the appalling decline of the previous century. Much of this increase was a result of federal job training and relocation programs that encouraged Indians from other states to move to California.

In 1965, fewer than 10 percent of the state’s 75,000 Native Americans lived on rural reservations. Those who did comprised California’s most disadvantaged group, with higher unemployment rates than any other minority. Urban Indians fared better but still experienced limited educational and employment opportunities.”

Migration in Los Angeles Continued...

[Text](#): “[Essay: 1921-present: Modern California- Migration. Technology, Cities](#)” ([Source: Calisphere University of California](#))

Excerpt from the essay:

“California's Asian American population remained small until 1965, when federal officials changed immigration policy to allow migration from Asia after 40 years of exclusion. In the decades before 1965, those Asian immigrants in California were considered "aliens" and barred from citizenship due to their race. Furthermore, a 1913 state law forbade Japanese Americans from owning land or leasing it for more than three years.

After the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the federal government rounded up and relocated 93,000 Californians of Japanese descent in the name of national security. Most were confined to relocation camps for more than two years despite never being convicted — or even formally accused — of a crime. Once released, many Japanese Americans found themselves destitute, stripped of their houses and possessions. Recognizing the injustice of the relocation campaigns, the US Congress made partial reparations to Japanese Americans in 1948 and again in 1988. But the stigma of being labeled national enemies simply because of their race lingered.”

Questions to ask:

- 1) Whose point of view am I reading?
- 2) Who is the target audience?
- 3) Whose voice do I hear? Which voices are not heard?

