

Serve-Learn-Sustain

TEACHING
TOOLKIT

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CREATING THE NEXT®

Environmental Justice Definitions

“Environmental Justice is concerned with making sure that (A) no community takes on an unfair share of environmental burdens and (B) environmental benefits are shared in an equitable way regardless of race, class, gender, or orientation” (Serve-Learn-Sustain).

“Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” (EPA-Environmental Protection Agency).

Definitions Discussion

1. What words, phrases, or ideas stand out to you from the definitions and the video, and why?
2. How do the definitions compare? How are they similar or different? Do you prefer one over the other, or some combination – and why?
3. How do these definitions relate to what we saw in the video?

EJ, Race, & Class in the U.S. South

1. What words, phrases, or ideas stand out to you from the article about Dr. Bullard, and why?
2. Fried writes: “The environmental justice movement has redefined *environment* to mean both the natural world and the places where we live, work, play, learn, and worship.” What does “environment” usually mean? Why is this expanded definition important?

cont.

3. What is “environmental racism” and how does it relate to environmental justice? Why is it important to focus on race as a key component of EJ?
4. “The ‘Principles of Environmental Justice’ were crafted in 1991. Do you think the text appropriately reflects the reality of today? Can you suggest issues that you would include in an update of the document?” (*Seeing Systems: Peace, Justice & Sustainability*, Northwest Earth Institute, 2014, p.54).

Post-Video Discussion

“Black Households with incomes between \$50,000 and \$60,000 live in neighborhoods that are more polluted than the average neighborhood in which white households with incomes below \$10,000 live.” (cite?)

Post-Video Discussion

1. What stood out to you the most from the video? A comment, slide, image, fact, story, idea?
2. What do we learn from the video about the relationship between environmental justice, race, and class?
3. What do we learn from the video about how the EJ Movement is trying to address environmental injustices?

cont.

Post-Video Discussion

3. Think about low income or marginalized communities around Tech/Atlanta or where you grew up. What is their racial/ethnic/socioeconomic composition? What are the environmental burdens in these communities that you don't see in wealthier or non-marginalized communities?
4. This has been a very quick introduction to EJ and its relationship to race and class in the U.S. South. What are you eager to learn more about moving forward?

Wrap-Up Discussion

1. How can our discussions today inform our thinking and work on [class topic] during the semester?
2. What questions should we keep in mind about [class topic] from an EJ viewpoint?

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