

Air Pollution

Substances in the air capable of causing harm to humans and the environment.

why air pollution?

Health Risks

Short-term effects

- irritation to eyes, nose, throat, and upper respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
- headaches
- nausea
- allergic reactions
- aggravate asthma and emphysema

Information from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Long-term effects

- chronic respiratory disease
- lung cancer
- heart disease
- damage to the brain, nerves, liver, and kidneys

Information from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Premature Death

Ambient particulate matter pollution
3,223,540

Household air pollution from solid fuels
3,546,399

Ambient ozone pollution
152,434

premature deaths are estimates from a December 2012 article about the Global Disease Study 2010 in the Lancet

Thought Leaders

Several organizations and passionate individuals exist working to solve the problem of air pollution.

NRDC – Natural Resources Defense Council

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

WHO - World Health Organization

California Environmental Protection Agency

Arie Jan Haagen-Smit is considered to be the father of air pollution control. He died in 1977.

Mary D. Nichols is the chairman of California Air Resources Board

John R. Balmes M.D. is on the California Air Resources Board

Selection of topic

Collected 95 news stories

Stories were gathered from:

- newspaper articles online and local
- radio

Distill/Analyze

- Are there trends in the stories?
- Which is the most promising topic to make a conference about?
- Are people aware of it?
- What is the impact of the topic?

Final Convergence

- Selected Air Pollution
- created an argument for why it is the best topic to pursue
- Analyzed argument developed, is it really the best topic?