

**Journal Entry #2 - How would you solve this environmental problem?**

- You and your neighbors believe that something is wrong in your neighborhood
- Several of the children in the area have become sick over the last several months
- You suspect that the industrial plant located near your homes may be polluting your water
- The local officials and plant management continue to deny that any public health risk exists

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**What would you do?**

- Your assignment:
  - Develop a strategy to address this problem (Summarize your steps)
  - What is a pollutant? Pollution?
  - What natural resource is affected by the problem?
  - What government agencies would you contact?
  - What experts might help you?
  - **Journal Entry #2** (Today's date & include topic: Environmental Problem)

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**Journal Entry #2**

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**5 Components of the Environmental Method**

- **Step 1: Scientific Assessment**
  - The gathering of information
  - Data is collected and experiments are performed to construct a model that describes the situation

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### 5 Components of the Environmental Method

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- **Step 2: Risk Analysis**
  - Identifying hazards, evaluating the nature & severity of risks
  - Process of gathering data and making assumptions to estimate short and long term harmful effects on humans & the environment
  - Assess the possible outcomes of intervention
  - What are the pros and cons of actions taken

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### 5 Components of the Environmental Method



- **Step 3: Public Education**
  - Inform the public of the situation
  - Explain the problem and present alternatives for action
  - Includes action by citizens, government agencies and elected officials

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### 5 Components of the Environmental Method

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- **Step 4: Political Action**
  - Public chooses a plan of action through their elected officials
  - Public chooses a plan of action without assistance from elected officials
  - Citizen activism

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### *5 Components of the Environmental Method*

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- **Step 5: Follow-through**
  - Results of any actions taken should be carefully monitored by all sides
  - Often life-long commitment to process

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### *Case Studies*

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- Lorraine Ross & Fairchild Plant in East San Jose (In the Valley of Heart's Delight)
- Lois Gibbs & Love Canal

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### *Love Canal*



- Lois Gibbs' work resulted in the creation of the "Superfund"
- Please read Pages 525, 530-531 in textbook
- "There is no away!"

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### ***Superfund***

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- In 1980, U.S. Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA) known as the **Superfund Program**
- Established a \$16.3 billion Superfund to identify & clean up abandoned hazardous waste dump sites & leaking tanks that threaten humans & our environment

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### ***Superfund Debate***

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- Polluter-pays principle versus public-pays principle
- 3 strategies used by industry: (1)deny responsibility; (2) sue local government & small businesses to clean up; and (3) mount a public relations campaign declaring that toxic wastes pose little threat to the public and clean-up is too expensive compared to the risks

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### ***Superfund Debate***

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- What do you think?
- Did you know that the Bay Area with 31 Superfund sites has the largest accumulation of Superfund sites in the U.S.?
- Visit the website for the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (svtc.org) to learn more about Superfund sites in your neighborhood!

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***The Debate continues . . .***

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- Is there any such thing as safe disposal of a toxic or hazardous waste?
- The debate continues. . .
- Shouldn't our goal be "***Not in Anyone's Backyard***" (NIABY) or "***Not on Planet Earth***" (NOPE)
- You decide!

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