

Review the items on “Cancer Alley” and post twice. For your first post, answer two of the items below (8 points). To facilitate grading please separate the two items you are addressing:

For the second posting you need to respond to one post by another fellow student (2 points). For the second post I recommend the following format:

- 1) I like how because.....
or
- 2) I agree/disagree with.....because....
or
- 3) This relates to.....because.....

This PBS video refers to a lawsuit brought Center for Environmental Justice on behalf of residents of “Cancer Alley,” a region of Louisiana with a large concentration of oil refineries that is also known having for some of the highest cancer rates in the US:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/what-a-court-ruling-means-for-the-future-of-pollution-in-louisianas-cancer-alley>

This article from the AP summarizes data on ethylene oxide levels detected in “Cancer Alley” using a novel technology from John Hopkins University:

<https://apnews.com/article/cancer-ethylene-oxide-environmental-health-24d898ce0bd59d78cb387b3cfc16b9cd>

These researchers from Tulane University found significant disparities in cancer between poor and affluent neighborhoods in “Cancer Alley” and speculated on reasons for these disparities:

<https://law.tulane.edu/tulane-study-louisianas-severe-air-pollution-linked-dozens-cancer-cases-each-year>

1. The Center for Environmental Justice argued that the industrial plants responsible for high rates of cancer were “discriminatory” due to their disproportionate impact on blacks. The judge rejected this argument and said that “pollution doesn’t discriminate.” Do you think this disparate impact of toxic air is necessarily a racial issue or not? Explain:
2. Do you think the judge’s ruling was influenced by special interests? Explain:
3. Based on research from John Hopkins, levels of ethylene oxide in some parts of “Cancer Alley” are 20 times levels that regarded as “safe.” How can this problem be addressed without shutting down the petroleum industry?
4. Based on the research from Tulane, poor people from regions with more toxic air are 5% more likely to get cancer than poor people from regions with less toxic air. This difference was harder to detect in affluent neighborhoods living in polluted and unpolluted regions. The researchers attributed this to the increased tendency of richer people to relocate. Can you think of any other reasons people in affluent neighborhoods are less likely to get cancer despite being exposed to the same toxic air as poor people who are more affected? Explain:
5. Do you think the Center for Environmental Justice would have been more successful if they had regarded the disparate impact of toxic air as a socioeconomic issue? Explain: