Environmental Justice Term Paper

Choose a paper topic by 5:30pm on Wednesday, March 29
Final Paper due by 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 3

Essay
The purpose of this assignment is to apply course terms, concepts, and themes to examine in-depth a contemporary environmental health justice topic of your choosing. You may choose an environmental justice (EJ) issue in or outside the U.S. The issue must be associated with human health impacts.

Present your findings in an 8-10 page, double-spaced essay. Use 12-point font, Times New Roman script, and 1 inch margins. Use in-text citations and include a bibliography/reference section according to APA guidelines. This is a formal essay; include a brief introduction, body, and brief conclusion.

In the essay, at a minimum, you should address the following key questions:
1) What is the issue? When did it begin (and end, if applicable)?
2) Why does this environmental issue exist? What are the primary causes? What historical and contemporary issues, processes, and developments have contributed to the prevalence of this EJ issue?
3) Why is this an environmental justice issue and not only an environmental health issue? Is this an example of environmental racism?
4) What is(are) the vulnerable population group(s)? Why?
5) At what scale(s) is(are) this issue occurring (local, regional, national, international)?
6) Who are the primary stakeholders/actors (e.g., corporations, government agencies, activists or community groups, etc.), affected or otherwise?
7) What is being done to improve the situation and by whom? If nothing is being done, why not?
8) In your opinion, what needs to be done to eliminate this environmental justice issue?

Map
In addition to the essay, you will use the “My Maps” feature of Google maps (not Google Earth), to create a map that helps to visualize the environmental health justice issue. You will need to sign up for a Google account to be able to create, save, and access your map. Your map should help the reader understand the EJ issue and your write-up. For instance, if you research food deserts in NYC, then you might want to identify which neighborhoods have the greatest and least amount of food insecurity and include important demographic information for each as food insecurity is often tied to class and race. In addition, you might want to identify on the map where key stakeholders, including community groups and government agencies are located.

For information on designing a map using the classic Google Map feature, go:
https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024454?hl=en&ref_topic=3188329

There are many Google Maps tutorials on YouTube. For example, see:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1X6iQ32lsHg
In creating your map consider the following questions and place the appropriate information on your map:

- **Where** is your selected event taking place?
  - Indicate on your map countries, cities, physical features (i.e. bodies of water, mountains) relevant to your EJ issue.
- **What** is taking place regarding your EJ issue and who is involved?
  - Accordingly indicate on your map the happenings that are relevant to your EJ issue and your analysis by using symbols, lines, shading, and/or colors.
  - Provide a short (~1 sentence) description for each symbol, line, shading, and/or color in the legend box.

Also, include a relevant map title.

*Include the link to the map you create (make sure you save the map and copy the appropriate web link), ensure that it is publicly accessible, and provide a screenshot of the map at the end of your essay.

**References**
You must consult/reference at least 5 sources. Three (3) of those sources must be academic sources (e.g., book or journal article); the other (2) sources can be from newspapers, magazines, or other legitimate and trusted sources. You are encouraged to reference the class textbooks and readings in your paper. Do not cite Wikipedia or similar websites; rather, use them to identify potential sources. Include full citations in a “References” section at the end of your paper. Note: references do not count toward your essay’s length. For more information regarding proper APA reference style, see: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

**Useful internet resources:**

“Environmental Justice,” Environmental Protection Agency: [https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)

Environmental Health News: [http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org](http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org)

West Harlem Environmental Association, Inc. (WE ACT for Environmental Justice): [http://www.weact.org/mission](http://www.weact.org/mission)