



Environmental Health

Activity 1: Indoor and Outdoor Pollution

Overview

In this activity, students will focus on and identify different kinds of pollutants and their sources. It is performed both inside and outside. *Suggested length: 60 minutes*

Materials

- Lists of indoor and outdoor air pollutants from: <http://www.miamisci.org/biodecide/resources>
- Notebooks and pencils
- Posters and markers

Instructions

1. Ask the students to separate into groups of two or three.
2. Assign half of the groups to focus on indoor air pollution and half of the groups to focus on outdoor air pollution.
3. Using the lists of indoor or outdoor pollutants, ask the students to go around their assigned environment for 15 minutes to look for potential sources of pollutants and record these observations in their notebooks.
4. Afterward, students brainstorm for 15 minutes about:
 - a. the sources of air pollution
 - b. the health effects of air pollution
 - c. what can be done about it

Discussion

Students come back together and form groups of up to eight. Moderated by a mentor or teacher, students discuss the following questions:

- What are the differences and similarities of indoor and outdoor air pollution?
- Which do you think is worse: outdoor or indoor air pollution?
- Do you think that pollution will be less of a problem in the future than it is today?
- Do you think the government should regulate indoor air pollution the way they do outdoor air pollution?
- What would you change about indoor spaces to reduce indoor air pollutants?

Assessment

Ask the students to create an informative story on the topic of indoor and outdoor air pollution. Students plan their stories in storyboard format on a poster and present them to the class.