

Introduction to AP Seminar Skills
Environmental Justice in Southwest Fresno
August 20-September 2, 2025

Introduction

Wednesday:

As a class we will read Michelle Gonzalez's "[The Forgotten West Fresno](#)" *The Know Youth Media*, 2021; then read "[Fresno Urban Decay Analysis](#)" *Econ Northwest for the Greenfield Coalition*, 2023.

Our Task

Thursday:

You will be assigned material to read or watch. Some people may be given the same resource. HW if not finished in class.

My number is: _____

You will prepare a **summary** of your material, including the overall **argument** (consider the **claims** being made and **evidence** used).

Friday:

Each person will informally present their summary and overall argument of their assigned material. All other students will take detailed notes of each presentation.

Notes will be used for writing a report on the various perspectives regarding environmental justice in Southwest Fresno.

Monday:

Finish presentations (if necessary).

Use your notes to write a 1-3 page report explaining the various perspectives¹ on environmental justice in Southwest Fresno (homework if not finished in class).

Requirements for your report:

- ☐ An introduction that gives the reader context regarding the issue of environmental justice in Southwest Fresno
- ☐ 1-3 typed pages (double spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font)
- ☐ References to information from at least two of your fellow learners ("According to Anna...", "As Robert explained...")
- ☐ Multiple paragraphs, each one explaining a different perspective on environmental justice in Southwest Fresno
- ☐ A conclusion that answers the question "Why does this matter?"

¹ Perspective: a point of view conveyed through an argument.

Tuesday:

Class discussion about the causes of and solutions to environmental justice in Southwest Fresno. You will add to your notes.

Guidelines for class discussion:

- Speak for yourself and from your experience
- Actively listen (add to your notes)
- Recognize and respect others' feelings, societal experiences, and cultural experiences
- Respect the "one mic": do not interrupt or speak over others, or add comments when others cannot respond
- Be curious: the goal of a discussion is not to win; rather, it is to help everyone understand the issue more deeply

Wednesday & Thursday

You will write a 2-3 page argument explaining the causes and effects of, and the best solution(s) to, environmental justice in Southwest Fresno.

Requirements for your argument:

- ☐ An introduction that gives the reader context regarding the issue of environmental justice in Southwest Fresno
- ☐ 2-3 typed pages (double spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font)
- ☐ Refer to information from at least two resources ("As Gonzalez argues...", "According to Gonzalez...")
- ☐ Multiple paragraphs explaining the context (adapt from your report introduction?), causes of, effects of, and your chosen solution(s) to the issue of environmental justice in Southwest Fresno
- ☐ A conclusion that answers the question "Why does this matter?" OR an explanation of what you think might happen in the future if we adopt your chosen solution(s)

Friday:

Work on a group multimedia presentation (create PowerPoint slides, who will say what and when, etc.): Your group will prepare a 3-5 minute group PowerPoint presentation (everyone talks!) arguing for the best solution(s) to environmental justice in Southwest Fresno.

Tuesday:

Presentations

Reflection and Introduction to AP Seminar tasks