

### **Project A Pre-reading Reflection**

- A. What is the main cause of air pollution
  - a. The combination of ozone and PM2.5 (smog). These conditions are especially heightened in the dryer summer months due to heat, less rain, and heavy winds.
- B. Why does LA have unhealthy air quality?
  - a. Traffic (vehicle exhaust), the climate is drier with high temps and high winds, large population, and the shipping industry all contribute to the unhealthy air.
- C. What health problems are caused by air pollution?
  - a. Exposure to PM2.5 has been linked to health effects such as heart disease, respiratory illness, and premature death.
  - b. Ozone can cause health effects ranging from respiratory infections and inflammation to premature death.
  - c. Los Angeles does not currently meet the U.S. EPA's national air quality standards for both PM2.5 and ozone, 1 in 10 children have been diagnosed with asthma and overall risk for cancer has increased by 900 for every million
- D. Has air quality improved in Los Angeles over the past 5 years?
  - a. Yes– Air quality in LA has really improved in the last 30 years with March 2020 becoming LA's cleanest air quality month on record. Local and state legislation have continued working to reduce transportation emissions in the city.
- E. What is the impact of COVID-19 to air quality?
  - a. LA experienced a long stretch of WHO-target air quality likely because of the lockdown. The air quality had not been this good since 1995.
- F. What is your neighborhood air quality?
  - a. Montecito has very good air quality. As of today (Feb 5), has an AQI score of 0, which is the cleanest and healthiest it could be.
- G. How could we reduce air pollution in Los Angeles?
  - a. One way is through reducing transportation emissions– the smog from heavy traffic is one of the leading reasons for air pollution in LA that individuals can impact.
- H. What are the major air pollutants?
  - a. PM 2.5, Ozone, PM 10, CO, NO2