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This is a poem I recently wrote, reflecting on current environmental issues

Geocentrism

Drowned by your gas-guzzling, heedless sorrow
Smothered by your gulping, chugging, rasping contraptions
Groaning under the relentless weight of your junk

You toss
me
around with gleeful abandon
pitch me into an unmapped abyss
I gasp for air
More than *I* need

And then you watch
With mournful eyes

As I tumble back down
Into the outstretched arms of
My orbit

Blue swallowing up green
A tangle of grease and soot and rubble and
People
Sweltering asphalt
Charcoaled remains

You crayon a fat tear dribbling down *my* helpless cheek?

Mother Earth
or so I am called
But when a toxic kiss
grazes your skin
or when a hasty caress
extinguishes your fluorescence
or when a heavy embrace
suffocates you
I won't cry

Will you?

Tell us your name, school, city, state and/or country:

- Sophia Ludtke
- Newark Academy
- Gladstone, New Jersey

Share 5 words that describe you.

- Thoughtful, passionate, sincere, kind, curious

How do you want to change the world?

Growing up abroad and attending an international school, I was encouraged from a young age to adopt a “global” perspective. With issues such as climate change, which demand unified world-wide action, I hope to continue to carry this global perspective with me in the future. It is my dream to one day work in a field that allows me to explore the intersection between environmental issues and public health--from addressing the ways in which climate change will increase the prevalence of certain diseases in developing countries to examining the ways in which environmental toxins are disproportionately harming all too many low-income neighborhoods in the US. I believe that, by thinking boldly and ambitiously but by also remaining grounded and informed, my generation will be able to work towards tackling some of these critical global issues.