Social injustice. First, let's define it. Social injustice is when equals in different social groups are treated unequally or unfairly. This goes for many different people such as those of different races, beliefs, and opinions. Environmental justice, however, is when people of all races, colors, incomes and national origins are all respected and involved in keeping the planet healthy and help to enforce many environmental policies, laws, and regulations.

I think that there is a small amount of environmental injustice at my school. Many people are not involved with the Green Team (our environmental team that works to make our school more sustainable) and do not care about the environment. No matter how many times we make announcements and try to spread awareness of the problems we contribute to everyday, I still see many people that just don't care. I see many people throwing trash into the paper and plastic recycling bins, I know a lot of the students aren't educated about what they can and can't recycle, and I have seen many groups of friends think it's funny to throw trash into the recycling or recycling into the trash cans. I definitely do not know how to fix this issue. The Earth is in pain and starting to slowly die because of all of us. Those who do not care, pose an even bigger risk to the future of the Earth. This issue has been in the back of my mind for quite awhile and I have been doing everything I possibly can to fix it. This issue definitely resonates with me. The more the hundreds of people at my school are educated about the environment and learn to care about the future of them and their family, the better the world can be. We need to work harder to inform people of Earth's issues. This is very important because, without environmental justice, there will be more pollution and global warming.

I also think that many people are too judgemental in my school and that is kind of an example of social injustice because people will talk crap about and make fun of people just because they are different than them. Many people make fun of others for their religion, race, what they wear, how they talk, what their opinions are, and many other things. I hear many people call others really mean and degrading names in the hallways and I even hear kids gossip about others. Those of one religion think badly of those with a different religion, people on one side of the political spectrum will fight with the opposite side, girls call other girls sluts (pardon my language) because of what they wear, and others will call their friends "stupid" and many other degrading words that will have an effect on the victim even though nobody may realize it. This can be really traumatizing to the kids being made fun of. My school has worked hard to spread the word of the Be Nice movement and has tried to crack down on bullying over social

media and in the hallways but I don't think they are trying hard enough to reduce the risk of bullying. I think that they really need to work harder towards reducing it all the way. We need to punish those who do these terrible things and we need to spread positivity. I also believe that we should have a safe area where students can meet and talk about issues (anonymously) we may be having, helping each other and learning how to cope and get rid of all the negativity in our lives. As a victim of negative and degrading "friends", this issue is definitely one I am passionate about and would like to fix now and it also resonates with me and needs to be changed because without changing anything, there are higher suicide rates and there will be more unhappy, negative people in the world.

I know that I may be able to make even greater changes to the world and the people around me but I am proud of everything I have already done so far. I am a part of my school's Green Team and the recycling club. I like to volunteer for different environmental activities. I've recently attended a river clean up and a beach cleanup and helped spread the words about different environmental impacts. I also volunteered for a sorting station during a big public event and helped educate people about composting and recycling rather than just throwing everything away. Last year, I went to a meeting about women and the environment and learned about different ways women are helping to save the planet and how many people are being secluded and ignored because of climate change. I have also worked on myself and I've become a happier, more positive person. I think that I should attend more environmental activities and help to spread the word even further than just friends and family. I have created flyers about certain issues and I have an informational [website](#) which many people have already visited and learned about the earth, it's problems, and how they can help to fix it. I have been and continue to update it with new, informational articles written by me and I also continue to talk about the environment and work with others to change our lifestyles and others'.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this. You are appreciated!

Molly Reynolds, Molmi43, reynoldsmolly47@gmail.com, Grandville High School

Molly Reynolds, Molmi43, reynoldsmolly47@gmail.com, Grandville High School