

# Climate Justice Presentation

**Name:** William Layman

**Username:** wl89761

**School:** Alexandria City High School  
(Formerly TC Williams)

# Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



-Majora Carter is a black woman who grew up in poverty in the South Bronx, NY. She saw firsthand the effects of environmental issues on her community and was inspired to make a change. She not only gives a voice to the black community, but also to other poverty-stricken areas around the world who are in need of environmental justice.

# Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



-The area in which she lived(South Bronx) is a relatively small part of New York City, but handles nearly 40% of its waste. It's also home to countless sewage treatment sites and power plants, making it environmentally unsafe. The community there was also economically neglected and still hurting from the racist policies of the segregation era.

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-Because of these things, residents in the South Bronx experienced horrible effects. Heavy air pollution led to asthma in children. The underdeveloped area led to people developing unhealthy diets, obesity, and diabetes. Cancer cases even rose as a result of the toxic pollution from many of the sewage plants.

# Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



Hunts Point Riverside Park.

-One day, Majora's dog led her to an abandoned spot on the river, the only place where residents had access to the water. Seeing this, Majora was inspired to turn it into a public park, eventually turning an initial offer of \$10,000 from the city into a 3 million dollar grant after the extreme support the initiative received. It was called “Hunts Point Riverside Park.”

# Resource 1: Majora Carter: “Greening the Ghetto” TED Talk



-Now, Majora is developing more initiatives, not only in the South Bronx, but for low-income and environmentally neglected communities all over America. She specializes in identifying a specific community's needs and then meeting them appropriately through sustainable and people-focused solutions.

# Resource 2:

## Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii”

Article



-Angelique Kokal is a student from Hawaii studying Economics and Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard University. She works coordinating environmental projects in places like Brazil but also works on economic uplift programs in her hometown of Hawi, Hawaii. She wrote this article detailing the past of Hawaii and its environmental relations.

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## Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii”

Article



-This article focuses on the history of environmental racism in Hawaii as a result of colonization and how native efforts to restore the environment have been affected. When the Europeans colonized the island of Hawaii, they exploited it for its rich resources with no regard for the people or the environment. This effect continued to snowball over time and the new generation are continuing to face these issues.

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-Indigenous communities in Hawaii have, and continue to, experience displacement as a result of rapid urbanization in Hawaii. Many of them are forced to move closer to the several active volcanoes in the archipelago, not only putting their housing at potential risk, but also exposing them to visual and air pollution.

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## Angelique Kokal: “Connecting Past to Present: Confronting Environmental Racism and Social Injustice in Hawaii”

Article



-The Indigenous people of Hawaii have protested these issues for many years and have made progress, but there is still more to go. These issues disproportionately affect the people on the islands without benefiting them economically or socially. It's long past time these issues were addressed.

# Resource 3: “The Link Between Racial Segregation and Environmental Injustice” Article on The Crime Report

CENTER ON MEDIA  
CRIME AND JUSTICE  
at JOHN JAY COLLEGE

**THE CRIME REPORT**  
YOUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE NETWORK

- This article details that way that America's racist past affects its current inequalities. Things like redzoning in which white city planners divided neighborhoods into racially-driven sections in order to avoid developing black communities and focusing on white ones. These actions have clear repercussions on communities today and need to be addressed.

# Resource 3: “The Link Between Racial Segregation and Environmental Injustice”

## Article on The Crime Report



- The article gives the example of Richmond, a city close to my heart as a native Virginian. In districts with higher black populations, there is an increased presence of pollution-producing buildings. These are linked to respiratory and neurological issues that also disproportionately affect black people in this area. Housing is also worse in these areas which exposes the community to more of these harsh conditions.

# Resource 3: “The Link Between Racial Segregation and Environmental Injustice” Article on The Crime Report



-This article really drove the point home that these issues affect communities literally everywhere. I usually consider Virginia to be decent at environmental justice but this article proved otherwise. This showed me that action needs to be taken first at a local level to inspire national or international change.

Have you been  
taught about this  
in school? If not,  
how can you  
change that? How  
can you educate  
others?

-Unfortunately, we are rarely taught about environmental justice in schools. In history class, we focus on big, visible events but can sometimes ignore longstanding, withering issues that affect the certain communities. By bringing awareness to these issues and emphasizing their importance, we can slowly bring them into curriculums across the country.

# What can you learn from looking at this through the lens of the 4 Rs?

-Reflection: We need to look back on the source of the problem(racist urbanization) and figure out how to fix it

-Restoration: We need to fix the problems that white businessmen and government employees created decades ago and restore trust. We need to environmentally revive these communities who have suffered under terrible conditions for decades.

# What can you learn from looking at this through the lens of the 4 Rs?

-Reparations: We need to address these issues from a social and environmental standpoint and not from an economic one. If we aim to do everything for a profit, it will defeat the purpose and cripple our efforts.

-Right-Relationship: In doing this process, we need to listen to the needs of the communities themselves and not overstep our bounds in changing their community.

# How would you define climate justice?

-I think that Majora Carter said it the best in her TED Talk: “No community should be saddled with more environmental burdens and less environmental benefits than any other.” This idea of equality is so important to me as someone who loves the environment. It has different impacts on everyone, but no one should have to deal with only the negative effects which may not even be their fault.

# Sources

-[https://www.ted.com/speakers/majora\\_carter](https://www.ted.com/speakers/majora_carter)

-<https://climate-xchange.org/2020/07/14/connecting-past-to-present-confronting-environmental-racism-and-social-injustice-in-hawaii/>

-<https://thecrimereport.org/2021/10/05/the-link-between-racial-segregation-and-environmental-injustice/>

# Post



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pgc\_entries\_will Unfortunately I was not able to include the whole slideshow due to formatting but here are some text portions as highlights. You should definitely check out Majora Carter's TED Talk titled "Greening The Ghetto"; it's incredibly informative and illuminating. #pcg2021

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