



Example of Completed Writing Exercise

(see [S5C Handout 4 - Sample Info / Evidence for Use in Writing Exercise](#))

The town of Hermanville, TX is facing an air quality crisis that is harming its residents' health and overall well-being. According to data drawn in December 2022 from the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Screening tool (INSERT LINK TO TOOL), children in Hermanville suffer from asthma at a rate seven times higher than that faced by children in the surrounding county. The problem goes back at least a decade, if not longer: a 2012 CDC report showed lung cancer rates in the community to be 12 times that of the national average. The harms that stem from these statistics are not just health-related; they affect many aspects of people's lives. As just one example, a survey published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) found that adolescent residents (ages 10-13) of Hermanville were significantly more likely (Odds Ratio: 2.3, CI: 95%) to miss at least five days of school per term than other students in Harris County.

The cause of the air quality crisis is clear, as is the solution. Though PETROCHEMICAL PLANT X has denied any connection to the contaminants routinely found in Hermanville's air, residents have reported seeing a thick green haze on multiple occasions. Residents last reported such an incident in December 2022, though conveniently, PLANT X reportedly told the Houston Chronicle that their EPA-required air quality monitors were not working that day. Nonetheless, residents are now mobilizing to install their own air quality monitors so that they can collect the data to prove what they already know: that PLANT X's emissions are harming their lives and health. Later this year, residents plan to use the data collected from their own monitors to call on Hermanville's City Commission to shut the plant down until independent air quality monitoring shows its emissions to be below the EPA's established levels for toxicity.