

## Reflection Paper

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In this project our group, including Ashley Payne, Berkley Gorre, and Quinn Whorley, decided to complete a research project and PSA on air quality but specifically wildfires and the effect that wildfires have on the climate. With all of us suffering from Asthma this problem was relevant to our life experiences and how we have been affected, especially in summer. After deciding our topic we started our research backtracking to follow the direction of how wildfires happen, the effects on the climate, then specifically air quality and lastly who is affected. This research process allowed us to broaden our understanding, giving us a clear path with this new knowledge. A challenge we faced was finding information that accurately represented different communities and how they are disproportionately affected. With the data we found it lacked representation of the diverse experiences around Washington and different populations making it difficult to draw a clear conclusion. We also struggled with finding non-repetitive sources on the impacts of wildfires on air quality across various regions of our states. As Berkley's dad is a FireFighter in Tacoma his support and insight on wildfires and air quality were extremely beneficial to our success and how he has a personal problem due to smoke inhalation he's experienced on and off the job. Through our research on wildfires and air quality we are more aware of how environmental issues require considering both short-term and long-term effects on health, especially in vulnerable communities. We are more mindful of how each factor that leads to wildfires has a long lasting impact on our future in the beautiful state of Washington.