Safe Routes Muscoy Air Quality Project (SRMAQ)

Memory Framing Tool for Environmental and Mobility Justice

Safe Routes
PARTNERSHIP
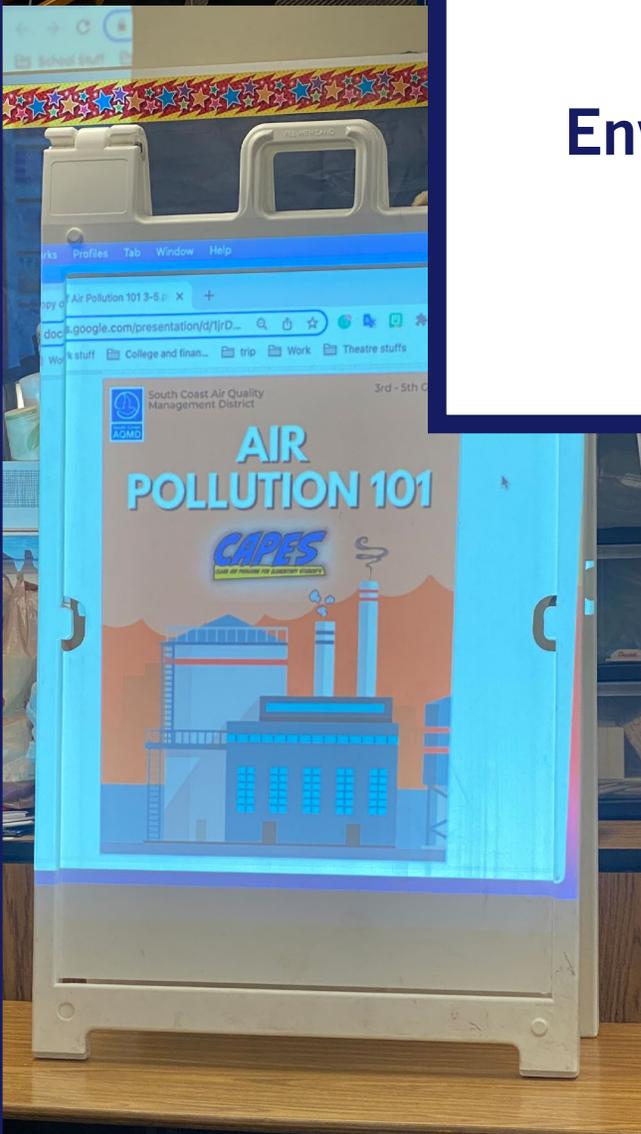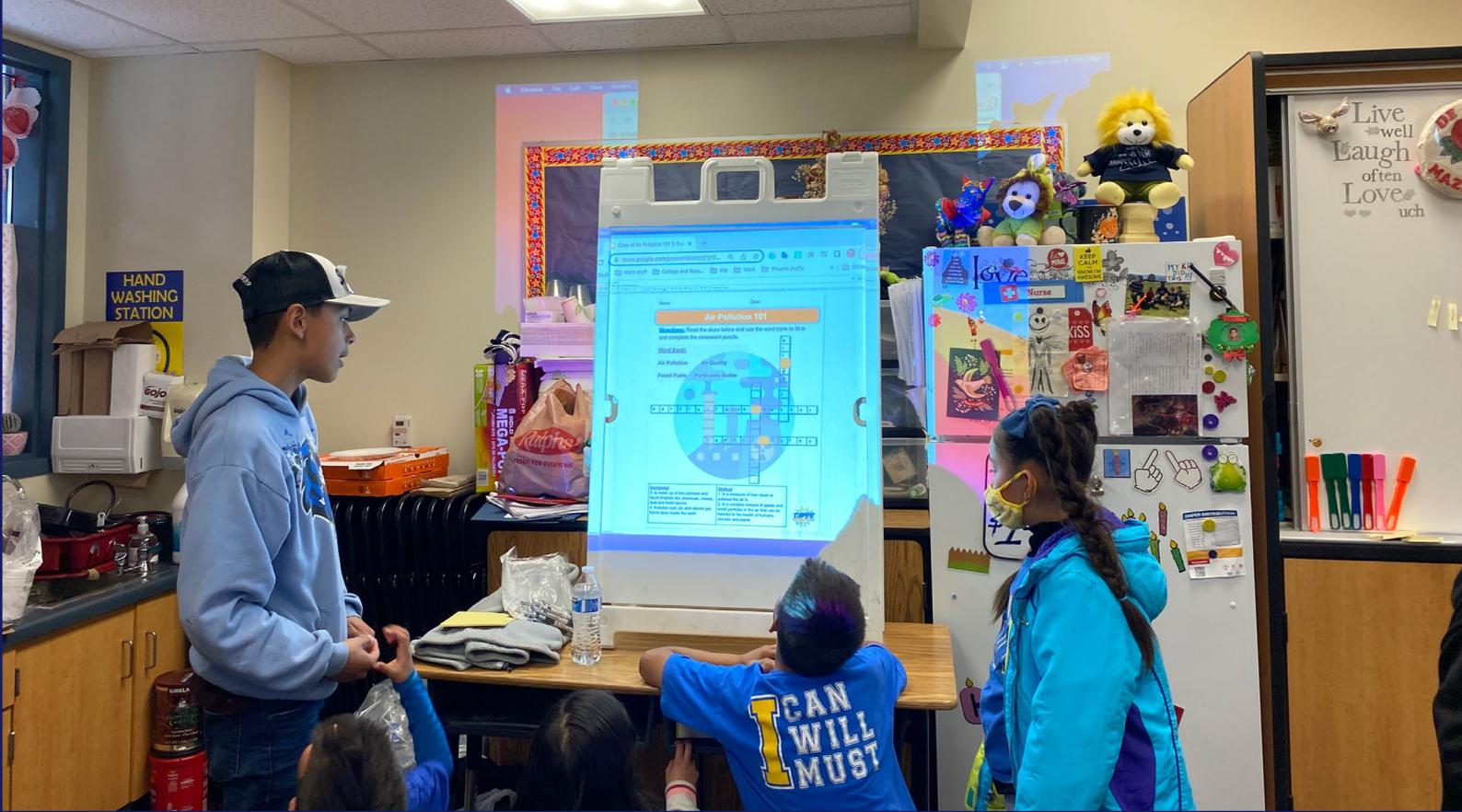
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Authors: People for Mobility Justice and Safe Routes Partnership

Maryann Aguirre and Maria Sipin

Introduction

Welcome to the *Memory Framing Tool for Environmental and Mobility Justice*. This tool was inspired by the people we have met in schools and community events in the past 10 years who care about bringing people together to have fun and to plan for community transformation.

This tool was developed to support people who are interested in a simple, structured approach to identifying the environmental and mobility-related characteristics of a place, recording this information, and using this data to inform next steps. This tool was designed to support people who are experts of the place where they live, work, or play. This tool is the product of many walk audits and transportation assessments we have been part of over the years. This time, with Memory Framing, we are offering a tool that isn't meant to audit or evaluate, but is meant to help people gather, learn about each other and their experience in a place, and tell stories that are helpful data for facilitating action for environmental and mobility justice.

We hope the conversations, friendships, and notes that come from Memory Framing help strengthen people's networks and interests in shared causes for their neighborhood and can be used toward transformation.

Intended Users and Audience

This tool relies on experts from our community such as youth, parents, neighbors, school personnel, and people who are concerned about the conditions surrounding schools, parks, playgrounds, and homes to capture their input and to share it. People who travel in their neighborhoods by walking, biking, pushing strollers, food carts, delivery carts or shopping carts, using wheelchairs, and riding skateboards and scooters all have unique perspectives to bring. These perspectives come from using all of our senses and feelings.
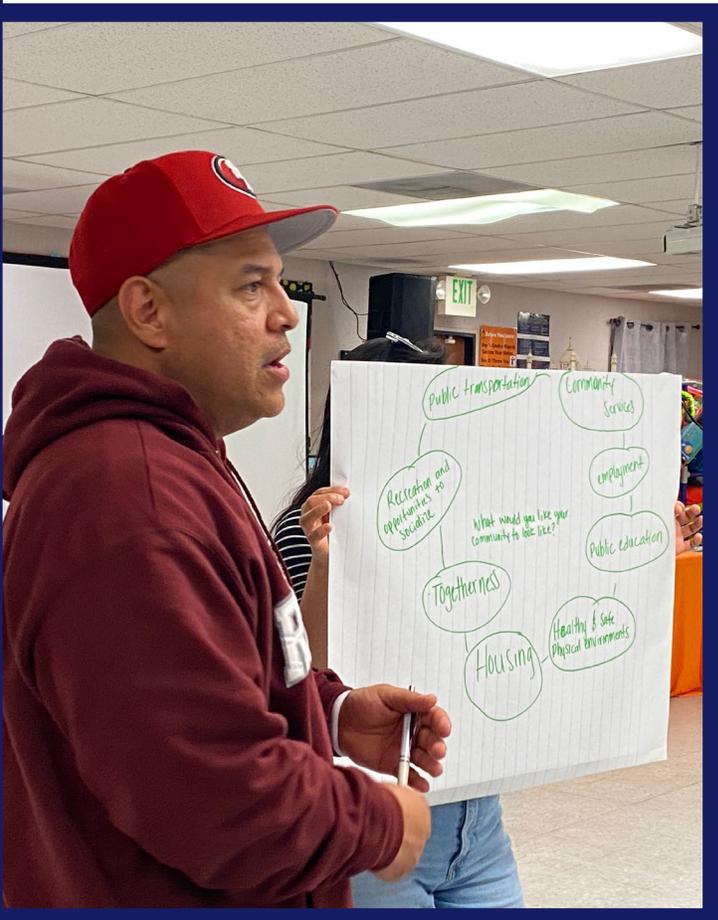
Recommendations for Planning and Participating in a Memory Framing Exercise

Venue or Place

A group participating in Memory Framing can do this activity anywhere in their community where people can meet and feel comfortable sitting or standing together. Memory Framing does not require being outdoors or participating in extensive walking or biking. Memory Framing should be in the area of focus such as near schools, parks, or homes where participants live and want to use this tool to help generate discussions and solutions.

Facilitator

A Memory Framing exercise does not require an official facilitator or leader, however, it could help the group feel more comfortable to have a familiar person or organization provide basic amenities and instructions for the activity. Experience in walk audits is not required to facilitate a Memory Framing exercise.

A facilitator will be familiar with the elements of the Memory Framing exercise and can arrange a central meeting place and time where participants can gather comfortably for an hour or three. A facilitator and participants can determine if the Memory Framing activity is conducted in a fixed location or is mobile. The facilitator can recommend routes or sections for participants to explore individually, in pairs, or in small groups, then reconvene afterward. A facilitator can communicate with all participants, make room for everyone to share input and questions, and provide ideas for what to do when the event is over.

Supplies

There are plenty of useful items for a Memory Framing exercise conducted indoors or outdoors. Prioritize items that bring comfort, safety, and joy.

- Memory Framing Tool for Facilitator (printed or on a mobile device)
- Memory Framing Worksheets for Participants (printed or on a mobile device)
- White board or poster board for capturing ideas and notes
- Sticky notes or notecards to distribute to participants
- Tables, chairs, or benches
- Printed maps of the immediate area
- Camera
- Notebooks, clipboards, and pencils
- Snacks and water
- Clothing and footwear suitable for the weather and terrain
- Masks, hats, umbrellas, sunglasses, rain jackets, or any accessory to that helps make being outside or gathered in crowds for long periods of time more comfortable

Memory Framing Using a Mobility Justice Framework

Memory Framing borrows the 5 D's of Mobility Justice from People for Mobility Justice. These D's are Decolonize, Decongest, Decriminalize, and Dignify, and Dream. These 5 D's help participants help elaborate on the characteristics and conditions of their community, and tie them back to environmental and mobility justice. Participants are also welcome to expand on the definitions of the 5 D's and can add their own examples.

- People for Mobility Justice 5 D's and environmental implications:

  » **Decolonize:** To return the environment to its natural state; to celebrate and honor biodiversity; to honor indigenous people and cultures that came before settler colonialists
    o greenery/native plants; art; sculptures; street names; trees; shade; art; public spaces for people

  » **Decongest:** To prioritize sustainable transportation and human-powered travel; to create safety and comfort for people who walk, use bicycles, or wheelchairs
    o more bike rides; more walking; bike parking; bike lanes; public transit; scooters; bike share; sheltered bus stops and seating; crosswalks; signs; curb extensions; slower speeds

  » **Decriminalize:** To invest in people; to move away from harm; to rethink punishment; to provide resources so people can do better; to inform and educate
    o less surveillance; no armed enforcement; crossing guards, recreation aides, teachers, community members instead of police; no police harassment

  » **Dignify:** To make resources available so that people's basic needs are met; to create trusting relationships and connections among community members; to recognize everyone's value and contributions; to make health, happiness, and safety available to all
    o care rather than criminalization for unhoused people and for street vendors; multigenerational community connection; mental health resources; successful small businesses

  » **Dream:** To imagine and create a world where everyone thrives; to take care of people and the earth without compromising either
    o clean air, clean water; care for animals and plants; resilience for people, planet and animals; streets for everyone; cars are not the default way of travel; challenging extractive industries and practices

Record, Sort, and Prioritize as Needed

At the end of the Memory Framing exercise, participants will have compiled plenty of observations, questions, concerns, and ideas. The Facilitator can help categorize those ideas into the 5 D's.

For each of the environmental and mobility justice elements, circle or pick the top three that stand out as most important or memorable.

Discuss people, organizations, or agencies that come to mind as possible champions, allies, or entities responsible for providing information or taking action.

Recommendations for taking these Memory Frames and next steps:

Facilitator and participants can identify how near or far they should take their actions or how much to expand their actions beyond this group. They can focus on planning another meeting or gathering to plan something among themselves or they can escalate their efforts immediately to make contact with people in power at regional or statewide agencies. The group can identify people they want to invite, communicate with, ask help from, or learn more about so they can plan their steps.

1. Street or block-based
2. School-centered actions / School district-centered
3. Local/city-wide
4. Regional and beyond

1. **Participant Memories and Dreams**:

Memory Framing Worksheets

    a. Memorable observations/recollections
    a. Desires and visions for the future

2. **Group Memories and Dreams**: Top 3 most memorable observations/recollections and Top 3 strongest desires and visions for the future (for facilitator)

3. **Next Steps**: Brainstorm (for facilitator)

Memories and Dreams
Recuerdos y Sueños

Recuerdos / Memories

Sueños / Dreams

Decolonize Decolonizar	Decongest Descongestionar	Decriminalize Despenalizar	Dignify Dignificar	Dream Soñar

Memories and Dreams
Recuerdos y Sueños

Recuerdos / Memories

Sueños / Dreams

Decolonize Decolonizar	Decongest Descongestionar	Decriminalize Despenalizar	Dignify Dignificar	Dream Soñar

Memories and Dreams
Memory Framing Next Steps

3 Recuerdos / Memories

3 Sueños / Dreams

Decolonize Decolonizar	Decongest Descongestionar	Decriminalize Despenalizar	Dignify Dignificar	Dream Soñar

Actions & People:

1. Street or block-based:

2. School-centered actions / School district-centered:

3. Local/city-wide:

4. Regional and beyond: