

You are having lunch with two friends of yours at the UC. One of your friends announces that she's had a job offer to work as a pharmaceuticals marketing representative in the valley. Your other friend offers his congratulations, but tactlessly says, "There's no way I would live in the valley. Have you heard about all those *maquiladoras* down there? I read in the paper that birth defects and cancer rates on the Mexican side of the border are up 300% since 1990". Being of somewhat skeptical nature, you look up the article. Indeed, rates are up 300%, affecting 4.5% of the population, vs. approximately 1.5% in 1990. When you look up figures for the US, the average rate is 3.7 %.

1. Work Individually for a few minutes to underline or list key terms and phrases for identifying what this case is about.
2. Do you have any personal experience with any of these issues?
3. Take a few minutes to discuss your ideas with a small group in class.

Come together again as a class to answer the following questions:

4. What are the issues in this case?
5. What do we know about these issues?
6. Are any assumptions being made?

Additional Questions to consider:

7. What risks are associated with exposure to the most common organic pollutants?
8. How great a threat is exposure for the majority of Americans?
9. Worldwide, what is the greater threat for most people, exposure to POPs or particulate matter? Why?
10. How can exposure to organic pollutants be reduced?
11. What effect would emission reductions have on you personally? On your family?
12. What effect might they have on the economy?
13. What level of risk do you consider acceptable for normal activities (driving, bicycling, flying, swimming, walking, eating food prepared by someone else, drinking city water, receiving a vaccination, etc.)?