

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Defining **Visual Pollution**

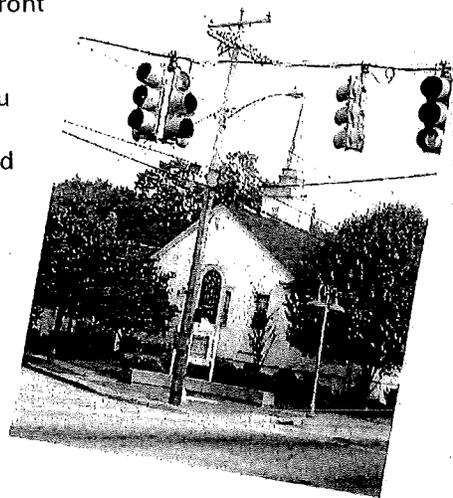
Before You Begin...

Throughout this curriculum the students will be called upon to identify various types of visual pollution and determine how this form of pollution within a community impacts its citizens and visitors. A helpful tool for students would be a checklist of visual elements that might contribute to visual pollution. Obviously the term "pollution" is a subjective one since what you find visually pleasing another person might find offensive and vice versa. However, when you take an overall look at a community's visual image there are elements that are generally considered by the planners, designers, community leaders, community activists and individual citizens to have a major impact on the visual health, and therefore the livability and economic health, of a community. We have provided a wide range of resources that further explore this relationship in the resource guide starting on page 89.



Before you begin the activities, have students brainstorm what they think the term "visual pollution" means. Next, have the students create a list of items they would look for in a community to determine if visual pollution is present. Explain they are creating a working definition of the term "visual pollution." They will have ample opportunity to change and revise both their definition and checklist as they complete the activities. We have listed 4 elements of visual pollution on the checklist to get you started. These elements should be crossed off the list if your students disagree with us.

Make several copies of the following page. Begin by completing one copy with the class and posting it at the front of the room. ***As you go through the activities revise the definition and checklist by completing a new definition sheet.*** Hang the new sheet next to the old one. When you have completed all of the activities you can go back and compare the sheets to see how the students' thoughts and opinions changed during the course of the unit.



★ VISUAL POLLUTION IS...

OUR CLASS DEFINITION OF VISUAL POLLUTION:

(This should be a consensus; everyone may not agree with the whole definition.)



VISUAL POLLUTION CHECKLIST: TYPES OF VISUAL POLLUTION

(Expand the list by adding your own items.)

___ too many signs

___ too many wires overhead

___ signs that are too large

___ lots of very large parking lots

DATE _____

