

## Environmental Conditions - Pollution



### Individual Voice

I took this picture because I thought it represented the environment and pollution in an abstract way. There is a padlock and chains because when people live in a low-income neighborhood, they might feel like they're locked in that neighborhood -- like they can't get out and so they have to live with whatever it is. They just have to deal with it -- with the pollution that's around--with the bad unhealthy environment. They are stuck there. I took the picture at this angle because up in the corner you can see the sunlight come in but down here where the viewer is closer, it's like you're closer to the darkness rather than to the sun. I guess my background -- or the people that I know -- being minorities -- sometimes you just can't escape your situation and that happens to a majority of us. We/They just can't get out.

### Collective Voice

There is no way out. People are being kept out AND people are being locked in. With the fence and stuff it looks like jail. It makes you feel closed up. Feeling closed, it's like hurting and being hurt.

Both saw the environment as trapping people who live in poor communities. Making them feel helpless and hopeless. The collective voice, which involved young men, drew the connection to jail and brought in an additional emotion...that of feeling closed in and frustrated...which hurt and perhaps led to hurting others.