

# Air Pollution True/False:

Read the statements below, participants hold up their True/False/Don't Know cards for each

1. Air pollution is harmful only in cities.
2. Air pollution is worse in big cities than small ones.
3. Nationwide, automobiles are the major source of air pollution.
4. Ozone smog is a problem only in Los Angeles.
5. Chronic respiratory diseases are aggravated by air pollution.
6. Air pollution affects only the respiratory system.
7. Air pollution can kill.
8. When the plume from a smokestack is white, no pollution is coming out.
9. Air pollution is expensive.
10. At any time our air may contain contaminants (air pollution) emitted by natural occurrences such as forest fires, volcanic eruptions, and decaying vegetation.
11. Pollution control has not improved overall air quality.
12. Industrial activity is the main source of air pollution.

## Answers:

1. **False:** the air carries pollution far beyond the city. So do automobiles and out-of-city factories.
2. **True:** Although special circumstances cause exceptions, pollution generally increases with population.
3. **True:** automobiles, trucks, and buses account for about 40% of our nation's pollution.
4. **False:** Los Angeles-type ozone smog forms in many places – wherever automobile exhaust and pollution from other sources are acted upon by sunlight.
5. **True:** studies indicate that pollution worsens these diseases and causes more hospital admissions from respiratory disease-related problems.
6. **False:** among other things, pollution is linked to heart failure in chronic respiratory disease patients.
7. **True:** in a number of famous long-lasting inversions, pollution brought death to many people. More recently, air pollution has been linked to premature death in big cities.
8. **False:** many polluting gases are colorless and many polluting particles are white.
9. **True:** the American Lung Association estimates that because of sickness and death, air pollution costs each man, woman and child in this country over \$200/ year. Industry also must spend money to clean up pollution.
10. **True:** the eruption of Mt. St. Helen's and fires that ravage Western states vividly demonstrate sources of natural air pollution.
11. **False:** the quality of air has improved since the Clean Air Act and the establishment of the environmental Protection Agency.
12. **False:** in terms of total mass of pollutants emitted, industrial activity falls behind transportation, space heating, and electricity generation. The important implication is that each of us, by our lifestyle and personal habits, contributes to air pollution. It is not just a problem of industry.

Adapted from The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Why Study Air Pollution Curriculum: Air Quality Education Program <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/DNREC2000/Divisions/AWM/aqm/education/airqualityLesson1.pdf>