

As I worked on this project with a new group of people, I was able to form connections with everyone, as they shared the same struggles I did with the topic of our project. In this project, my group and I were able to break down the main issue with the bathrooms in the dorms at Northern Illinois University, specifically the girls' bathrooms. To address this issue, we decided to interview people from our resident halls with questions we created, took pictures to show proof of how this is a serious issue students are facing within the year, and discuss what we should do to improve or change this issue so it will leave an impact in the future. Each of us took part in this project as we brought in ideas of conversation, evidence, and ways to improve our bathrooms.

When this project first started, my group and I were deciding on the most common issue people had faced at the school, or the issue we shared in common this year. We decided to discuss how unhygienic and old the girls' bathrooms were in the residence halls at Northern Illinois University. We concluded to choose this issue was that we asked each other what certain problems we encountered within the year, and we began listing a few struggles we had, one of which was the struggle of living in the resident halls. I thought Isabella and I were the only ones dealing with a health hazard in the bathrooms since we both stayed at Neptune West on the 4th floor, but it was clear that the other resident halls had health hazards of their own. We compared each other's bathrooms by what we encountered in the showers or stalls, describing the environment of the bathrooms, and explaining certain issues everyone faced with the bathrooms. We wanted to address this issue because it was a struggle for us girls, as it is a place where we become vulnerable to the environment, but we couldn't since the place would be dirty, old, and uncomfortable to use daily. There have been constant complaints discussing whether or not the bathrooms will ever change or stay the same, as it will become dangerous to step into a filthy bathroom.

We have come to realize the severity of the issue as we dove deeper into what goes on in the bathrooms of every residence hall. Together, we decided to create a video featuring evidence from the resident hall bathrooms, discussing the major issues we all share in common, and promoting practical solutions we can implement to improve the quality of the bathrooms. We each took a part in this project by collecting evidence through pictures of our dorm bathrooms and interviewing people to evaluate the common issues people (girls specifically) have with their bathrooms. By providing evidence, we need to include the eight questions we created, which were basic questions about their overall encounters or events they experienced within the year, as we interview 2 people from our resident halls. After interviewing the people from our dorms, we agreed to discuss the most mentioned issue or dilemma when asked about the bathroom. We recorded our interviews in a shared document so we can be aware of what questions we might have missed or what similarities we shared when asking these questions.

Both the questions and pictures were essential in this project, as they highlighted the similarities between the bathrooms and the significant issue they present to students at Northern Illinois University. Communication was a bit difficult as we struggled to communicate with each other about the evidence we had collected, and whether we were available to start on our main focus in this project was to create a video or podcast. We chose to create a video because we can easily interact with each other about this topic and create a conversation on what solutions we can use for this issue that has affected the audience, female students, in the school community. We agreed to meet at the library, as we were able to obtain a room, thanks to Isa, to record ourselves with no interruptions and distractions. It was awkward at first since we did multiple tries to record ourselves without feeling embarrassed in front of the camera. It was

entertaining as I enjoyed talking to my team about this issue, which I thought I had only experienced, as it was my first year here at Northern Illinois.

Throughout the video, we were able to explain certain problems in the issue, which were the moss in the bathrooms and how old the bathrooms were, which needed desperate repairs. We made our own separate points and agreed with each other's responses as we made several remarks. I tried not to look at the camera too much, as it made me a bit nervous since we were using a phone, since in my last group we used a digital camera for the recording. The interaction I had with my new group was different from my old group, as we were more comfortable with each other talking about the topic and having some relevant side conversations that we kept in the video. I guess in this project, I was with an all-girl group, and in my last group, I was the only girl.