



# There's Something in the Air...

## *A lesson about Particle Pollution*



Along with the various gas molecules that comprise smog, small pieces of solid and liquid masses that are suspended in the air also threaten our health. These pieces of matter can include everything from crushed pieces of gravel to very fine particles such as soot and pollen. Unlike ground-level ozone, which rapidly dissolves indoors, particle pollution is as much of a problem indoors as it is outdoors. The cars we drive and the energy we use are significant sources of particle pollution.

In many ways, particle pollution is even more dangerous than ozone. These tiny particles get inside your lungs and your blood causing a long list of health problems and have been linked to serious health consequences, even death. In fact, scientists continue to study all the damage that particle pollution causes to the human body.

### Test your School's Particle Population!

There is a simple way to collect airborne particles inside and outside of your school. Spread a very thin layer of petroleum jelly on an index card and suspend the card in place where it will not be disturbed for a whole day.

- 1) Weigh the index card with the jelly BEFORE hanging it up in the air
- 2) Weigh the index card AFTER it has been hanging for one full day
- 3) Calculate the weight difference

For more information about particle pollution, please visit The Clean Air Campaign at [cleanaircampaign.com](http://cleanaircampaign.com). If you or one of your students has a question about air quality or needs help with a project, email our in-house expert, BAIR, [BAIR@cleanaircampaign.com](mailto:BAIR@cleanaircampaign.com).

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