

CITIZEN SCIENCE

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Presentation Title: *Clearing the Air: How K-12 Students Think and Act Like Scientists to Investigate Environmental Health*

How do we empower kindergarten through 12th-grade students to think like scientists? Using a real-world lens of air quality and community impact, this interactive session demonstrates how students develop critical thinking across grade levels. Participants examine a vertical trajectory from elementary to high school. We map how students' progress from making basic observations to analyzing air quality data and finally constructing complex environmental justice arguments. Through this lens, attendees analyze a model investigation on atmospheric monitoring while exploring how science, math and ELA practices deepen understanding. Participants can expect to leave with actionable, cross-curricular STEM strategies.

Presentation Target:

K-12

Presenter(s):

1. Valerie Sellars, Director Secondary Science - K-12 STEM, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
2. Noa Stuchiner, Director of Elementary Math and Science, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools