

Health in the City

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Module 6 Discussion: Health in the City

After watching the BBC documentary "Filthy Cities: Industrial New York," I gained a vivid understanding of the dire conditions in 19th-century New York City (BBC, 2017). As I imagined myself as a politician during this period, I recognized the immense challenges and health risks that shaped daily life.

As a politician in 19th-century industrial New York, my role primarily involves engaging with the public, addressing civic issues, and navigating the political landscape to enact laws and policies. My daily routine starts early, with meetings in crowded, poorly-ventilated public buildings where I interact with various stakeholders, including business leaders, fellow politicians, and constituents. These interactions often occur in environments where sanitation is a significant concern, contributing to the spread of diseases.

One of my main tasks is addressing the public's growing concerns regarding sanitation and public health. Waste management, inadequate sewage systems, and widespread pollution plague Industrial New York. The streets are often littered with garbage, and the air is thick with smoke from factories, posing severe health risks to all inhabitants, including myself. As a politician, I am exposed to these unsanitary conditions during my daily commutes and public engagements.

Moreover, the overcrowded living conditions in tenements amplify health risks. Many New Yorkers live in cramped, poorly ventilated apartments with limited access to clean water and proper sanitation. These conditions foster the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever. As a public figure, I frequently visit these tenements to understand the plight of my constituents, putting myself at risk of contracting these illnesses.

In the documentary, the focus on the rampant spread of diseases due to poor sanitation was particularly striking. The lack of clean drinking water and the contamination of water sources by industrial waste and human excrement were common issues. As a politician, advocating for improved sanitation systems, such as better waste disposal methods and constructing a comprehensive sewage system, becomes a critical part of my duties. However, these efforts are often resisted due to the economic interests of powerful industrialists prioritizing profit over public health.

Furthermore, the documentary highlights the health risks posed by occupational hazards. Factory workers, who make up a significant portion of my constituents, are exposed to dangerous working conditions, including long hours, inadequate safety measures, and exposure to toxic substances. As a politician, I am responsible for pushing for labor reforms and better working conditions to protect these vulnerable workers despite facing opposition from factory owners.

In conclusion, life as a politician in 19th-century industrial New York involves navigating a complex web of public health issues, political challenges, and economic interests. The health risks associated with daily activities, such as exposure to unsanitary conditions and infectious diseases, underscore the need for urgent reforms. Through advocacy and policymaking, I strive to address these challenges and improve the living conditions for all New Yorkers, recognizing the profound impact of industrialization on public health.

Peer Responses

In your response posts, reply to the posts of two students with a different occupation than yours. In your reply, politely suggest ways to change their activities or behavior to diminish health risks to themselves or others.

Response 01

Hey Max, nice post! Your post insightfully highlights the dire conditions faced by politicians in 19th-century New York. To reduce health risks, consider advocating for cleaner, well-ventilated meeting spaces to minimize disease spread. Additionally, implementing stricter regulations on waste management and air pollution could significantly improve public health and reduce your exposure to unsanitary conditions during daily commutes and public engagements.

Response 02

We are supposed to write two peer responses. I have addressed the given instructions in one response. Following these instructions, you can write your peer responses to Module 6 Discussion without a hassle.

References

BBC, A. M. (Director). (2017, January 13). *Filthy Cities- Industrial New York-HD*.

<https://vimeo.com/199364552>