

Source Analysis #6

Ava Gillery

The Centreville Sewage Crisis consists of the small city of Centerville, Illinois where the pump stations don't function as they should. This causes sewage to leak onto the streets and lawns of the residents and while they have spoken out about it and the news have reported about it, no changes have been made. I believe that this is deeply rooted in racism and the expectation/stereotype that the Black community can figure their way through anything. 95.8% of Centerville is African American and while yes, the Black community is full of strong people and in many cases, don't want the help of outside forces (specifically from white people), there comes a time when that help is necessary. This is especially true when the people of Centerville are asking for the help. I also think that it's rooted in racism because there are many ways that the Illinois government can help them. For example, they've already have been sending out boats to rescue the residents during the floodings so it's not like Centerville or its residents are unreachable. Many people in power just want to keep poor people poor and keep them in bad situations to make themselves seem and feel richer. It's income inequality. These families have worked their entire lives to get these homes and don't want to move either because of a connection to Centerville or just because they can't afford to leave. If the government steps up and stops being racist bigots, then the residents of Centerville would be able to live a happier and healthier life.