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Reflection 4

We're heading into the final part of our research group this semester. It has brought a challenge that felt similar to freshman year in CODES. Jumping around to different groups, trying to adapt to our goals for the semester. The page I am contributing to is a testimony of my struggles in Centreville. I also want to explore other perspectives, so I interviewed two people and asked them questions. I know how bad flooding can get in East Saint Louis because I lived there. I want this page to be about the topic of water infrastructure and how it's inside black/low-income areas. This assignment brought very good conversations, and the first person I spoke with was my old friend Carl. Carl lives in East Saint Louis, and one of the areas he lives in is faced with really bad flooding. I never knew we dealt with similar struggles, even though it wasn't as severe compared to his. Around last year, we discovered East Saint Louis doesn't have any ditches or drains for water. Causing sewage to back up and streets to be flooded.

I read different articles on why this was a problem, and it all ties back into how the city was treated. With East Saint Louis being a low-income area, the government wouldn't put money into something they're not profiting from. Even if they were helping the thousands of people who live in this community. Some people have to buy a bottle of water because their homes don't distribute clean water. Pipes that have been used for decades have not been looked at or

addressed. Leaving erosion and bad things getting into the water. I feel that I understand my mission and my goal for this end project.

The problems I really struggled with were starting or finding a good idea. Earlier this semester, I felt so lost, but in the end still found my goal and mission. Learning the importance of bouncing back and finding another reason to keep going. A goal or plan that wasn't foreseen to make a difference in your research. If I could do it again, I would want to do a bigger interview with different people rather than just two. Its so many voices in the city that have been silenced or couldn't speak. Collecting this data and writing a testimony for all of East Saint Louis could be the change that is needed. Things like why they haven't received help, are they worried about the responses back? There are a lot of different factors that could be calculated .