[Slide 1]

Hello, my name is Nicholas Wojno and I’d like to thank you all for giving a part of your busy day to listen to me. The issue I’d like to bring to your attention today, as shown behind me, is noise pollution.

Noise pollution is by far one of New York City’s biggest problems, with it existing everywhere and anywhere you go unless you are living at the edge of the Bronx or Staten Island.

But if its so widespread, how could it be an issue? Well…

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It would be fair to start discussing on what exactly noise pollution is and what causes it.

So on the left side of the slide, there are a couple of examples for certain ranges of noise, measured in a unit called a decibel.

As you can see, there is 20 decibels of noise produced when two people are whispering to each other, 50 decibels of noise is produced when two people are having a conversation, and 100 decibels is how loud a train is passing by.

Noise pollution is typically viewed at any place that consistently have over 70 decibels of noise. Noise pollution in general however is any noise that is unwanted.

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Now, what does this have to do with anything? Well, to name a few cases of how it has affected people’s lives. When you go to a construction worker or a soldier who doesn’t wear some form of ear plug while using a saw or firing off rounds where the noise can be so loud for a long duration, that they have to ask you to repeat yourself typically because their hearing is that much worse from consistent exposure to such loud noises.

Now, in a more practical sense, we can look at the MTA’s train system. According to the MTA official website, the MTA assumes to have 5,580,845 passengers on the average weekday in 2017. Since MTA measures passengers by how many swipes into the system they receive on any given day, if we divide the assumed number by two to show the amount of people going to and from home by subway. You get, rounded up, 2,790,423 people who have to listen to the train come screeching into the station, and occasionally even have the train’s horn blasted right into their ears.

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Remember how I said that an average train produces up to 100 decibels.

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It is the reason why many New Yorkers seem to be loud, but in reality it’s simply because they have to be. Any consistent sound that is above 85 decibels, may slowly inflict noise-induced hearing loss. As a result, in speculation, 2,790,423 have to deal with damaging their ears in order to complete their commute.

Aside from this, the problem of reducing how noisy a train can be while approaching the train platform isn’t something that can be easily fixed. Instead I’d like to approach residential areas and work spaces. Noise pollution is a possible cause for many people’s sleep disturbance, higher levels of stress, and high blood pressure.

The worst part is

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Noise pollution plagues nearly every street in New York City, with the main exception being half of Staten Island.

An examination created by the Department of Transportation, shown on the map behind me, displays the decibel warning areas created by vehicles of all types. The worst areas being Laguardia and JFK Airports.

Naturally, this amount of noise is bound to cause people troubles.

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So how do we do something about it? [Pause]

I think there are already some people who have a good idea of how to help fight against noise pollution.

[Slide 7]

Let me introduce the SONYC program, or Sounds Of New York City. SONYC is run by a collaboration of several NYU institutes and the University of Ohio.

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The SONYC program seeks to work with, well, all of you here in order to create possible solutions.

Behind me I have the chart from their website of what they plan on doing which is showing a way to consistently gain information by using the populace, and machines.

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I’d appreciate it if you consider giving the SONYC program additional funding for their cost efficient microphones which are used to measure decibels across the city, or just simply raise awareness for noise pollution on television advertisements and bring SONYC to a wider audience so that we may combat noise pollution.

[Slide 10]

Thank you for your time once again, and I hope you all sleep well tonight.