Infra-Specter brings to the foreground what lies hidden, from what is veiled by language to what runs under our feet. In broad strokes, the exhibition explores how structures of power use laws, technologies, and language to influence and confuse, and to promote their economic and political interests, regardless of whether these harm the immediate environment. Sung Tieu addresses the mental and physical aspects of threats that are not easily understood, or distracting people from understanding the world around them, while Rituals of Speaking provides a model of care and resistance by creating awareness and giving the different community members a safe space to speak and share.

Through collective storytelling, Rituals of Speaking reveals how artists and communities invite, gather, and represent the voices of many. The different projects that are part of this exhibition came out of a collaborative process that prioritized listening to the people involved, allowing the story to change along the way. If we were to put the two exhibitions in dialogue, we could say that Infra-Specter refers to the methods used to confuse or distract people from understanding the world around them, while Rituals of Speaking provides a model of care and resistance by creating awareness and giving the different community members a safe space to speak and share.

Together, the visible and invisible structures shape how we experience our surrounding environment. While governments, corporations, and institutions play an important role in developing cities, it is the people who make their neighborhoods what they really are.

Methods of Distraction, Models of Care

This Learning Resource departs from our two exhibitions, Infra-Specter and Rituals of Speaking, to explore infrastructure, access to information, environmental justice, and community sharing. It was developed and designed through many conversations between Amant’s learning team and a series of learnshops with the Lyons Community School Science team educators Nicole Beall, Chris Fields, and Dexter Wilson and Clair Beltran from the Center for Urban Pedagogy.

### Mapping Out the Neighborhood’s Story

For our Little Artists, we invite you all to collaborate on and sing a map.

- Each artist should choose one favorite place to draw, making sure to include the name of the place and what you love about it.
- Once finished, everyone can add their place to the map and feel free to color it! (Start with your school!)
- Make sure to include the names of the places and a little bit of information on why you added them.

**Reflection Questions:**
- What places did you include in your map and why are they important to you?
- Who do you go with when you visit these places?
- Look at everyone’s map—what do they all have in common? What are some of the differences?
- How close are they to the North Brooklyn Pipeline?

### Environmental Symphonies

Make a list of all the sounds you hear in the galleries 315 and 332.

- Take ten seconds to make a sound that reminds you of danger.
- How do these sounds relate to one another and how do they compare with each other?
- Reflect on your definition of calm and sounds of danger.
- What sounds did your group find? What sounds did your group make?
- Are some of these sounds similar?
- Can they be confused for other sounds?
- How does (your sound(s)) relate to the sound(s) present in the exhibits?

Your soundscape should be around 30-45 seconds long and include a sound recording from an artwork, a sound recording from the Amant campus, a sound recording from a body

**Reflection Questions:**
- How do you define calm?
- How do you define danger?
- What sounds does your group hear? What sounds do you compare with each other?
**Context**

For Infra-Specter, Sung Tieu created a new installation, *Liability Infrastructure* (2023), comprised of different sculptures, documents, and sounds. In it, she analyzes the construction and operation of hydraulic fracturing sites, where gas is extracted from rock deep underground. This project breaks down this drilling process and looks at the pipeline system used to distribute the fracked gas and the methods of hiding important information, such as health risks posed to those living nearby.

In *Liability Infrastructure*, Sung examines how language is used to confuse public perception. For example, fracking is the way most of our natural gas is extracted, yet the term “natural” gas is sometimes presented as a “green resource,” similar to the renewable energy produced by wind turbines and solar farms. However, unlike those green energy sources, natural gas is a non-renewable fossil fuel, and how it’s extracted and transported across the country can be hazardous to people’s lives and the environment.

We take Sung’s work as a starting point to look closely at gas in our own neighborhood. Many people use gas in their daily lives—it heats homes, water, and how most people cook food. How do we get this gas? There are many ways to extract gas, and fracking is one of them. Fracking, technically known as hydraulic fracturing, is a way to take gas from rocks deep underground and collect it for our use. This gas is commonly referred to as “natural” gas, and it’s the main gas used for domestic heating and cooking.

While it’s used as a common energy source, gas is a significant source of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and pollution. These chemicals contribute to climate change and can negatively affect our health and indoor air quality, which can make conditions like asthma more severe.

**In Our Neighborhood**

Did you know there’s a heavily contested gas pipeline crossing Brooklyn? The North Brooklyn Pipeline (officially known as the Metropolitan Natural Gas Reliability Project) is set to be over 7 miles long, bringing fracked gas from other states into Brownsville, Bed Stuy, Bushwick, Williamsburg, and Greenpoint.

The North Brooklyn Pipeline is a clear example of environmental injustice: running through primarily Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities, it exposes them to extra environmental harm. Many local organizations and people have successfully fought against National Grid, the international company who owns this pipeline, but National Grid keeps trying to construct its pipelines.


Despite these proven health risks, communities are often left in the dark about how energy companies transport gas into their homes and how harmful they can be to communities. Drillers aren’t even required to report the chemicals they use or how they affect the environment.

While some organizations like the large multi-national corporation National Grid see fracked gas as a valuable resource, it is important to understand the local risks and to learn how your voice can shape your neighborhood.

Local organizations have been able to prevent National Grid from expanding their pipeline and further hurting our neighborhoods. Inform yourself, do research, and then go to local orgs and campaigns. To help get you started, we’ve provided a few key players below, including their mission statements and Instagram handles, to keep you connected.

### Sane Energy Project (@saneenergy)

A nonprofit whose mission is to replace fracked gas infrastructure with 100% democratically controlled renewable energy in New York State. They see their work through the lens of racial, social, and economic justice, and they initiated the No North Brooklyn Campaign which effectively stopped the construction of the pipeline from Williamsburg to Greenpoint.

### Boricua Resistance (@nyboricuaresistance), The Indigenous Kinship Collective (@indigenouskinshipcollective), the New York Resistance Collective (@nyresistance), the New York Grassroots Environmentalist Resistance (@nygrassrootsresistance), and Mayday Space (@maydayspace).