

Name:

Course:

Tutor:

Date:

## Marijuana Legalization

Marijuana legalization is an area that attracts great public deliberations in America and most parts of the world. Apparently, people are usually not aware of the most recent information on the health implications of consuming the drug, or the dissimilarity between national and state laws regarding the drug. However, the public is mostly fed with information from the media as well as popular cultures, the proponents of marijuana as a medicine, which propagate the fake conception that the drug is non-detrimental. It is prudent to lay out the raw facts about marijuana so that the public may not be misled into believing what is not as far as consumption of the drug is concerned. This article will focus on a debate on whether or not marijuana should be legalized, by highlighting the legal as well as the health implications of such an attempt.

Marijuana is a type of illicit drug that is mainly used for its psychoactive effects. It is one of the most abused drugs in the United States and in the world at large. In the modern world, marijuana is used for the recreational purposes and for its medicinal value (Gottfried 68). It is also used to carry out some spiritual rites in some parts of the world. The drug is believed to bring about an intensified mood and relaxation in a person hence its wide usage. Legalization of marijuana is a controversial issue and that is what makes this topic a debatable one (Radcliffe). Most of the regions in the United States have been reluctant to legalize this drug although there are some states such as Colorado and Washington that have already legalized it.

As of today, there are about 20 states in America that have legalized use of marijuana, though for medical purposes only. However, this implies that there is only a thin line that prevents the above states from imposing greater legalization. If supporters of marijuana will have a greater muscle of influence in these regions, the individual states will most likely succumb to the pressure. However, it is important to highlight the facts about marijuana so that an informed decision can be made. Although marijuana is not listed as a prescription drug, it has all along been used for various medical purposes (Greg 16). The drug has been proved to have a compound known as tetrahydrocannabinol, which stimulates certain receptors in the brain, thereby bringing about a euphoria effect (Gieringer 13). It has been applied in patients to relieve stress. The compound is also used to prevent nausea during chemotherapy processes. Furthermore, the drug is used on patients suffering from weight loss to increase their appetite. The belief that marijuana has medicinal value has been employed to give justification for its use in the medical field. However, such attempts to legalize marijuana require careful regulation. For instance, in most of the states where the drug is legalized for medical purposes only, the authorities usually allow only a given quantity of marijuana per individual. The outlets for marijuana and growers of the crop are also given regulations to produce only to a certain limit.

Although there are various claims that have been made concerning the benefits of marijuana, it has not yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a prescription drug, because of several reasons (Kubby and Rosenthal 96). Firstly, there lacks adequate clinical tests showing that the health benefits of cannabis prevail over the risks associated with its usage. In addition, for a substance to be considered a legal medicine, it must have very distinct and quantifiable ingredients that show consistency in all units. This factor is important because it helps doctors to prescribe on the frequency of administration of the drug. However, marijuana contains many other compounds apart from THC that may be

harmful to the body. THC may have specific benefits to the body but the inclusion of other compounds in this drug makes it risky to consume (Hurley & Mazor 602). Moreover, marijuana is mainly consumed through smoking and this may bring along other health hazards especially in the respiratory system. The drug is considered to be addictive and may result to impaired decision-making and psychosis in some people.

Let us now shift our focus and analyze some of the consequences of legalizing marijuana. If marijuana is legalized and therefore regulated like many other drugs such as alcohol and tobacco, it will create avenues for economic development in the country. The drug is the most common among the American citizens and therefore this move would transform marijuana to be one of the largest cash crops in the country (Shohov 1). This would in return create jobs and legal economic openings rather than having this money in the illegal trade. Additionally, the federal and state governments would get new sources of revenue through the tax imposed on marijuana trade.

It is worth to note that the drug policy alliance has been calling for the legalization of cannabis through a well operated market for its production and circulation. The following scenario can be considered as far as legalization process is concerned. Currently, anyone who wants to use marijuana must do it in the illicit way. This is mainly done in areas where policemen rarely reach. Health standards are not usually considered when purchasing the drug because the trading process must be done fast and in a manner that does not attract the attention of the public. As a matter of fact, buyers do not know the levels of THC in marijuana at the point of purchase. It implies that such users are in the risk of contracting diseases related to food safety (Joffe 1845). However, if the drug is made legitimate, THC levels in marijuana for sale can be standardized so that people will have an idea of the THC amounts they are consuming (Morgan 68). Identification procedures will also be enforced so

that no underage people involve themselves in the sale and consumption of marijuana.

Criminal activities including theft will be greatly minimized (Ruschmann 73).

The essay has highlighted on the merits and demerits of consuming marijuana.

However, other factors such as cultural beliefs have not been included in the essay although it's a major factor influencing marijuana consumption. It has been found out that cannabis is the most frequently abused drug among the American citizens (Shohov 1). This has occurred despite the fact that most of the regions in America have not legalized marijuana for consumption, although others have done it but for medical purposes only. The bottom line in this debate is to advocate for legalization of marijuana so that there can be proper regulation mechanisms in this trade (Beau 10). Furthermore, the move will create revenue for the federal and local authorities as well as create opportunities for economic development (Glauser 17).

## Annotated Bibliography

Kubby, Steve and Ed Rosenthal. Why Marijuana Should be Legal. Philadelphia: Running Press, 2003.

This source is one of the most vital sources of information related to the subject of the study. It provides an overview of issues related to Marijuana especially its legalization. The authors explain the advantages economically, socially and health wise that can be derived from the legalizing usage of Marijuana in the country. The source provides supportive information on how lives can be improved by making use of marijuana legal in various states across the U.S.A. Thus, this source will be vital in completing the study due to its rich information on why legalizing usage of marijuana in the society will be of benefit

Gieringer, Dale H. Marijuana Medical Handbook: Practical Guide to Therapeutic Uses of Marijuana. New York: Ed Rosenthal, 2008.

This book acts as a good source of information on how marijuana can be used for medical purposes in hospitals. The authors indicate that marijuana can be used in hospitals in treatment of patients especially in the area of pain relief. They therefore, argue that legalizing the usage of marijuana will be a vital step in making its usage for medical purposes more acceptable by patients. The source also provides information that by making marijuana legal many people will overcome the fear they have regarding the usage of marijuana. Thus, this source provides crucial information to support my arguments on why marijuana usage should be legalized due to its medical benefits.

Gottfried, Ted. The Facts about Marijuana. Selangor: Marshall Cavendish, 2005.

This source of information on facts relating to marijuana is important in completing the paper. The source helps in understanding what marijuana really is, its benefits and disadvantages when used by individuals. Therefore, the source helps to weigh on the merits

and demerits of marijuana and coming up with conclusion on which outweigh each other. When discussing a very crucial subject like that of legalizing marijuana it is vital to have facts about it, which are well provided in this book. Thus, the source will be used in providing facts on marijuana when debating on the issues of legalizing marijuana in my paper.

Ruschmann, Paul. Legalizing Marijuana. New York: Infobase Publishing, 2009.

This is the most interesting source of information regarding my subject of discussion. The authors of this book discuss the topic of legalizing marijuana in an open way. Their book is able to provide balanced information on the issues that need to be tackled in the area of marijuana legalization. It also helps in understanding the benefits and demerits of legalizing the usage of marijuana. In order to understand the issues on legalizing marijuana this book is the best. Therefore, this source of information will be of critical in completing the paper especially in providing a balanced argument on the issue of marijuana legalization.

Shohov, Tatiana. Medical Use of Marijuana: Policy, Regulatory, and Legal Issues.

Carbondale: Nova Publishers, 2003.

In completing the paper it is important to have a view of some of the legal issues that have hindered the usage for medical purposes. This source is crucial in completion of the paper as it provide information on the medical uses of marijuana. It provides information on the policy, regulation and legal issues that hinder the effective application of marijuana for medical purposes. The source indicates that with proper measures in place marijuana can be used for the larger good of human race. The authors of the source argue that it making usage of marijuana legal will help in making it easy for it usage in the field of medicine.

Beau Kilmer. Altered state? : assessing how marijuana legalization in California could influence marijuana consumption and public budgets. Santa Monica, CA : RAND, 2010.

This source will play a critical role in writing my argument for legalization of marijuana. It provides a real life example of a state that has legalized marijuana. The source Provide information on how the legalization of marijuana can influence its consumption and public spending. The author of this source provides evidence that legalization of marijuana increases its consumption and this is beneficial to an economy. Increased consumption of marijuana means increased public spending which will be vital in the creation of employment. This source will be vital in completing the paper as it has information on the positive side of using marijuana in the society.

Joffe, Alain. Legalization of Marijuana: Potential Impact on youth. Pediatrics, 2004, Vol.113(6), pp.1825-6 [Peer Reviewed Journal].

This source is crucial to the discussion on legalization of marijuana. It provides information on the potential impact of legalization of marijuana in the society especially the impact among the youth. In order for my paper to thoroughly provide a balanced argument on issues pertaining to marijuana legalization, the source provides information that shows the impact of marijuana among the youths. The source argues that legalizing marijuana can have a negative impact on the youths and is opposed to the idea of legalizing it usable in the society. As a result the source will help in arguing my case, why legalizing marijuana should not be allowed among the youth.

Glaser, David. The Economic Effects of Legalizing Marijuana. University of Utah, 2012.

Understanding the economic effect of legalizing any given activity in the society is of great importance when discussing such an activity. Therefore, this source is crucial in completing my paper as it provides information on the potential economic effects that legalization of marijuana has in a given society. The author of the source argues that legalization of marijuana can have both positive and negative economic effects on the society. For instance, marijuana consumption can result into the creation of employment opportunities in the society. Additionally, the source argues that over usage of marijuana can have far reaching health complications in the society. Therefore, this source will aid in completing my paper.

Greg Campbell. Pot, Inc. : inside medical marijuana, America's most outlaw industry. New York : Sterling, 2012.

This source was critical in completing the paper. It provides supportive information on the medical related issues of usage of marijuana in the society. It provided a background on the medical importance of marijuana in the society as well as it's potential harmful health impact on the American society. The source, thus, aided in understanding what it means medically to legalize the usage of marijuana in a society, as it provided inside information on the potential implication of such an act in the society. Therefore, the source helped in defining my argument on whether legalization of marijuana usage should be allowed in the society or not.



Hurley, William ; Mazor, Suzan. Anticipated medical effects on children from legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington State: a poison center perspective . JAMA pediatrics, 2013, Vol.167(7), pp.602-3.

This source provided information on the impact of legalizing usage of marijuana on children from the perspective of health care professionals. Therefore, this source helped in understanding how usage of marijuana will impact American children in the future. The authors of the source are biased in their argument as they only talk about the negative impact of marijuana on children without looking the potential benefits arising from the usage of marijuana in the society. Despite it biases the source was instrumental in completing my paper.

Works Cited

- Beau Kilmer. Altered state? : assessing how marijuana legalization in California could influence marijuana consumption and public budgets. Santa Monica, CA : RAND, 2010.
- Gieringer, Dale H. Marijuana Medical Handbook: Practical Guide to Therapeutic Uses of Marijuana. New York: Ed Rosenthal, 2008.
- Glauser, David. The Economic Effects of Legalizing Marijuana. University of Utah, 2012.
- Gottfried, Ted. The Facts about Marijuana. Selangor: Marshall Cavendish, 2005.
- Greg Campbell. Pot, Inc. : inside medical marijuana, America's most outlaw industry. New York : Sterling, 2012.
- Hurley, William ; Mazor, Suzan. Anticipated medical effects on children from legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington State: a poison center perspective . JAMA pediatrics, 2013, Vol.167(7), pp.602-3.
- Joffe, Alain. Legalization of Marijuana: Potential Impact on youth. Pediatrics, 2004, Vol.113(6), pp.1825-6 [Peer Reviewed Journal].
- Kubby, Steve and Ed Rosenthal. Why Marijuana Should be Legal. Philadelphia: Running Press, 2003..
- Ruschmann, Paul. Legalizing Marijuana. New York: Infobase Publishing, 2009.
- Shohov, Tatiana. Medical Use of Marijuana: Policy, Regulatory, and Legal Issues. Carbondale: Nova Publishers, 2003.