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Proposal and Annotated Bib

Marijuana: Dangerous Drug, or Harmless Remedy?

The topic that I am writing my research paper on is marijuana, and in exactly what realms it should be legal/distributed in. This interests me because as a college student and being active socially, I hear a lot about marijuana. Also the topic itself pops up in the news all the time, so it’s quite the pressing issue in today's society. My official research question is “Should marijuana be legal in recreation use as well as medicinal use?” My knowledge on this topic is pretty elementary, I know all the things that were taught to me in class as a 7th grader about marijuana but I have heard that it was far from the truth. From the things I’ve looked at so far, it appears that marijuana is definitely not as bad as it seems. I am excited to uncover the real facts about this drug that has captivated society and the medical world.

I plan to use a variety of sources while researching this topic. Foremost, the library database has been proven to be a great tool for me so far as I use marijuana as my keyword, and recreational and medicinal as additional words. Other sources I plan to use are documentaries, as I’m sure marijuana is a thriving topic for these types of films. I can find documentaries by conducting a simple google search, as well as looking on Netflix and YouTube.

During my research, I anticipate that some trouble will occur. One thing I will have to keep an eye out for is that making sure that the information I am reading is indeed credible. I plan on overcoming this by fact checking frequently, and pulling up other sources in comparison. Other than that, I can’t think of any other problems that may occur.

Working Thesis: As children, we are taught to view marijuana as a poison, but as the times are changing it becomes clear that it is indeed a resourceful tool that can help people in a variety of ways.
Marijuana: Dangerous Drug or Harmless Remedy?

An Annotated Bibliography

Anderson, Mike. "Medicinal marijuana advocate describes son's devastating seizures."


This article explains one Iowa mother who is desperately trying to get medical marijuana legal in the state. She claims that it will drastically improve her son's seizures. If it were legalized she would be able to get help for her son, and it would help her family not only emotionally but also financially.

This mother is begging for medicinal marijuana to be legalized, and rightfully so. This primary article stresses the importance of medicinal marijuana and how it needs to be implemented within every state. The article makes the reader very emotional, and truly captivates the emotions of the audience. It makes one believe that medicinal marijuana is needed in every state. This article will provide my paper with an emotional appeal, and therefore strengthen my argument as a whole.

Hefler, Jan. "Lawmaker behind medical marijuana wants N.J. to permit recreational use."

This source does not support my thesis, but I plan to use it as a qualifier. This study compared the effects of being high on marijuana to being heavily intoxicated. This, of course is not a good thing at all and does not support the notion of legalization. It goes on to show how driving under the influence of marijuana can be very unsafe and dangerous for not only the driver but the others on the road.

After analyzing this scholarly journal, it became clear to me that the effects of marijuana should not be mixed with operating a motor vehicle. This journal offers up a great experiment, which in turn proves that restrictions on marijuana legalization should be made. This scholarly journal will provide my paper with the rebuttal that is needed, and make me more credible as my viewpoints evolve.

Hefler, Jan. "Lawmaker behind medical marijuana wants N.J. to permit recreational use."


I acquired this article from the library database. The article outlines how a certain lawmaker wants to permit the recreational use of marijuana. The lawmaker goes on to say how the approval of recreational marijuana use can help boost the economy. He highlights the key areas in which the money can be given back to, such as construction of roads and bridges, and also education on marijuana use.

The law maker proves a very valid point. This is a current article from a newspaper. If it becomes approved, this could help skyrocket the New Jersey economy. He also proves another great point by saying a portion of the money made will go towards educating the youth on the effects of marijuana and help them become better acquainted with the drug. All in all, this plan can help the state of New Jersey in an insurmountable way.

This is a scholarly article focused on marijuana in the optometry field. It documents an optometrist who shares his opinion on the use of marijuana in his field. He goes on to explain how since post legalization the questions he has faced from patients about marijuana have increased. He says that the drug has its potential to help treat glaucoma but more research still needs to be conducted.

The optometrist interview offers great insight on how the drug is shaping the industry that he is working. This is a first hand account of how marijuana is implemented into today's medical fields. It tells how the market for marijuana has increased, and illustrates how professionals plan to use it. All in all, the article provides a professional medical view on the pressing issue of marijuana.


This article explores the views of candidates for a local government on recreational marijuana use. The candidates have a variety of views, all ranging from a hard no to a strong yes on the sale of recreational marijuana. The candidates go on to express why they believe what they want is best for their local county.

This article shows how marijuana has divided up the political sector. You have many differences between the candidates, even by age and gender. You would think that older people wouldn’t want recreational marijuana use, but yet you see quite a bit of candidates that are above
60 voting yes. This just goes to show how controversial the topic of legalization is in all forms of government.


This source is a scholarly article. It examines how marijuana is used in the daily lives of Canadians. It goes on to talk about how the drug plays different roles in the users’ lives. The article highlights the different aspects of how marijuana has helped these people in their lives whether it be medicinal or recreational or just relieving stress after a long and hard day.

This article goes on to prove that one can still be a healthy and contributing member to society despite their use of marijuana. With the use of interviews it gives first hand accounts into the lives of people who use the drug almost everyday. It highlights the fact that just because some people used it while they were young and dumb, doesn’t mean that they cannot go on to do great things and be responsible adults.


This article examines how since marijuana legalization in Colorado, there hasn’t been an increase of cases or use in the schools. The numbers shown in each district only show an increase of 2-3 students or so a year. This change is coming after the legalization in the state, but is not of major concern due to the numbers.

This article proves that since the legalization of marijuana in the state of Colorado, that youth use has not increased. Many would believe that after the legalization that students would
be able to access it and therefore use it more. This just goes to show that this idea is wrong, and that the use has not increased despite legalization.


This is a scholarly book source about the history of marijuana. It documents the rise of the drug and its prominence in culture. In this particular chapter, Sloman documents on how marijuana was perceived in the 1920s-1950s and how it was presented in the media. He shows different pictures of victims who were apparently high while they were injured. It shows how marijuana was portrayed and that if you used it it would result in a bad injury.

This scholarly book source will be a great one for my paper. It offers great photographs and analysis on how the drug was written about and portrayed. This will be great to show the change of the overall image of marijuana. The source as a whole offers even more background on the history of the drug as a whole, so I may need to explore more within the book to gain a greater sense of knowledge on it.