

# Marijuana legalization outline

Law



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The Legalization of Marijuana Thesis Statement: The legalization of marijuana in the United States would create a drastic change by forming a more productive society through all of the positive uses of cannabis, physically, economically, and socially.

## I. Examination of the plant

- A. The other common names—hemp, cannabis, bud, and weed
- B. Society's views on the plant are very stereotypical
  1. Known as harmful, deathly, and hazardous
    - A. It is said that one's attitude can be alarming and harmful to others
    - B. Marijuana can be consumed in baked goods, vaporized, or even brewed
    - C. Brownies can be cooked with marijuana. Tea or coffee can be brewed with the plant
    - D. THC is the main chemical
      1. The amount can be regulated
      2. It determines the strength of the high
  - A. Marijuana has been proved to help and cure many diseases and health problems
  - B. Glaucoma, epilepsy, arthritis, chronic pain, and depression can be cured and prevented with the use of marijuana
  - C. Marijuana can even help one with aids

## II. Past legality in the United States

- A. At one point in time, it was 100% legal

- B. It was one of the largest agricultural crops in the world
- C. The first law to exist in the U. S. was a law demanding the U. S. farmers to grow hemp
- D. In 1920, cannabis, hemp, and marijuana became illegal
- E. It remained illegal until World War II
- G. In 1948, all forms of marijuana were illegal again and still remains to be illegal.

### III. The United States' debt and taxation

- A. As of February of 2013, the national debt was \$16, 797, 828, 899, 087.
- B. The death rates are more common for other abused substances
- C. 50, 000 people each year die from alcohol poisoning.
- D. More than 400, 000 deaths are attributed to tobaccosmoking.

There are zero deaths related to the use of cannabis.

- A. The amount of Americans who smoke is substantial . 25 million Americans smoke marijuana in the past year.
- B. More than 14 million people smoke regularly.
- C. Enforcing marijuana prohibition costs taxpayers an estimated \$10 billion annually.
- D. More than 750, 000 individuals are arrested per year
- G. The number of moneytaxpayers pays to equip the state and federal prison facilities are substantial and would decrease with the legalization of marijuana

### IV. Regulations in stores vs. on the streets

- A. Cigarettes and alcohol are monitored
- B. One must be 18 to purchase any tobacco product
- C. One must be 21 to purchase an alcoholic beverage
- D. Marijuana is sold on the streets to anyone who wishes to purchase it
- E. The legalization could help prevent the smoking of underage teens
- G. Crime rates would decrease, as well as drug cartels

#### V. Dangers

- A. Studies of the harm to the body caused by marijuana
- B. It shows no sign of brain cell damage
- C. Not one case of lung cancer has been found caused solely by marijuana
- D. Overdose will not occur if one smoked too much

#### VI. California

- A. Decriminalized Marijuana
- B. California was the first state to decriminalize it
- C. The crime percentage dropped by 24%

#### VII. Legalization in Colorado and Washington

- A. Illegal to anyone under the age of 21
- B. An adult can legally possess up to 1oz of dried marijuana, 16oz of marijuana solids (edibles), and 72oz of cannabis-infused liquids
- C. Minors are still arrested and/or charged and will face sentencing
- D. Public consumption would remain a violation in both states, but a civil, not criminal, one