

<p>pic/Prompt: Should Marijuana be Legalized?</p>	
<p>Hook: It's about time we resolve the marijuana issue.</p>	
<p>Background Information: The debate on marijuana legalization is still ongoing; however, some states like California and Washington have already legalized marijuana use, making recreational marijuana lawful.</p>	
<p>Position Statement: In this debate, the proponents for legalizing marijuana have a firmer ground than their opponents because they declare that legalizing marijuana can create thousands of job opportunities, lower the crime rate, and decrease the use of marijuana among teens.</p>	
<p>Main Idea 1: Firstly, the proponents have a strong argument because they assert that legalizing marijuana can produce thousands of job opportunities.</p>	<p>Main Idea 2: Secondly, the proponents have a stronger argument because they contend that legalizing marijuana can reduce the crime rate.</p>
<p>Supportive Sentence for Main Idea 1: (Textual Evidence) For example, they argue that according to Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), "the cannabis industry in the United States "is expected to produce nearly 300,000 jobs by 2020 and grow to \$24 billion by 2025." [20]</p>	<p>Supportive Sentence for Main Idea 2: (Textual Evidence) For instance, they declare that according to Taylor West, former deputy director for the National Cannabis Industry Association, "We're not seeing any increase in crime rates through marijuana – we're seeing lower crime rates, and there are good rational reasons for that: We're really beginning to cripple the criminal market, which is where violence actually occurs." [71]</p>
<p>Supportive Sentence for M.I. #1 (Explanation of Textual Evidence) This evidence infers that legalizing marijuana can have a significant impact on employment by</p>	<p>eSupportive Sentence for M.I. # 2 (Explanation of Textual Evidence) This evidence explains that the crime rate will decrease as a result of</p>

creating job opportunities for many people. It will also generate revenue to support the economy.

legalizing marijuana. There will be fewer violent crimes, such as assault and battery, homicides, domestic violence, and robbery. As such, communities will be much safer for the public.

Counterargument

(The other side's opinion with evidence)
On the contrary the opponents believe that marijuana should not be legalized. They argue, "Marijuana is especially dangerous for young people, because human brains are not fully developed until around age 25 (four years past the legal age in states that allow recreational marijuana). "

Rebuttal

(Evidence to disprove the other side)
However, proponents have a stronger argument than their opponents, they prove that marijuana use among teens has decreased following marijuana legalization, for instance, proponents report that, "The Marijuana Policy Project, an organization that leads marijuana legalization campaigns, said, "Study after study has confirmed that marijuana policy reforms do not cause rates of youth marijuana use to increase... The most in-depth state surveys suggest modest decreases in rates of youth marijuana use in Colorado and Washington." [42] Even though retail marijuana shops opened in Colorado and Washington in 2014, past-year marijuana use among teens in those states was lower in 2015-2016 than in 2014-2015. [39]" This proves that marijuana use among teens has decreased as a result of legalizing marijuana.

Commented [1]: You did a very good job on your counterargument and rebuttal!

Conclusion:

