

<b>Topic/Prompt:</b> Should Recreational Marijuana Be Legal?	
<b>Hook:</b> Who argues over a plant that grows out of the ground?	
<b>Background Information:</b> It is still debated in some states whether to legalize marijuana. States such as Colorado and Washington have already legalized recreational marijuana and have implemented marijuana laws.	
<b>Position Statement:</b> In this ongoing debate, it is apparent that the proponents' argument is much stronger than the opponents' argument because they prove that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol or tobacco; it promotes state funding and reduces the concerns centered on public health safety and risks.	
<b>Main Idea 1:</b> Firstly, the proponents' argument is stronger than the opponents' argument because they prove marijuana is less harmful than alcohol or tobacco.	<b>Main Idea 2:</b> Secondly, the proponents have a stronger argument for legalizing marijuana than the opponents because marijuana increases states funding.
<b>Supportive Sentence for Main Idea 1:</b> <b>(Textual Evidence)</b> For instance, the proponents state that "According to the CDC, six people die from alcohol poisoning every day and 88,000 people die annually due to excessive alcohol use in the United States." Yet, there were no reported cases of death from marijuana. (1)	<b>Supportive Sentence for Main Idea 2:</b> <b>(Textual Evidence)</b> For example, the proponents claim that "Tax revenues in legal marijuana states provide funding to the police, drug treatment and mental health centers, <u>and</u> housing and school programs." (10)
<b>Supportive Sentence for M.I. #1</b> <b>(Explanation of Textual Evidence)</b>  This suggests that marijuana is less toxic than alcohol since there were no documented deaths associated with marijuana use, suggesting that it is less harmful to the body.	<b>Supportive Sentence for M.I. #2</b> <b>(Explanation of Textual Evidence)</b>  This shows that legalizing marijuana will strengthen the economy, resulting in more state programs.

**Commented [1]:** Hello Ms. Jennie, You did a great job on making your final revisions. Excellent work! You are now ready to convert your template into your essay format. Please follow the teacher's sample. You should have five separate paragraphs i.e. introduction, body (main idea #1 and supportive sentences, main idea #2 and supportive sentences and counterargument/rebuttal), and conclusion. You will upload your essay in the lesson titled, Template conversion to essay format. Let me know if you have any questions. Have a great study day! ☐

<p><b>Counterargument</b> (The other side's opinion with evidence)</p> <p>On the contrary, opponents believe that marijuana should not be legalized. They argue that "(1) cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern." (12)</p>	<p><b>Rebuttal</b> (Evidence to disprove the other side)</p> <p>However, proponents have a stronger argument in that they prove marijuana poses a minimum risk to a person's health. For example, they assert that according to Dr. L. Nathan, a clinical psychiatrist and president of Doctors for Cannabis Regulation, "In several respects, even sugar poses more of a threat to our nation's health than pot," (9)</p> <p>This confirms that marijuana is a safer drug in comparison to other drugs (to include sugar) that tend to pose a greater health risk to humans.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>In summary, the proponents' argument that marijuana should be legalized is better supported than the opponents' argument. The proponents prove that marijuana is not a harmful drug; it is much safer than other substances. It also benefits the economy. Since marijuana is one of the safest recreational drugs, I agree that it should be legalized.</p>	