Essay “Attack Plan” Prewriting:

A detailed thesis and outline of paper

Paper Title (quotes): “Legalizing Marijuana: Its Medical and National Benefits”

Thesis of paper: Although the legalization of marijuana should not occur for recreational purposes due to unintentional health consequences, eventual destructive behavior, and legal purposes, marijuana should, in fact, be legalized for disease-treating medical reasons and to increase tax revenue to aid in improving our nation’s economy.

Points of Emphasis:

1.) Marijuana should not be legalized for recreational purposes

   a. Unintentional Health Consequences
      i. “The most probable adverse effects include a dependence syndrome, increased risk of motor vehicle crashes, impaired respiratory function, cardiovascular disease…” (Hall).
      ii. “Cannabis and THC produce dose-related impairment in reaction time, information processing, perceptual motor coordination, motor performance, attention, and tracking behavior.” (Hall)
      1. HOWEVER - “Studies of the effects of cannabis upon road driving found more modest impairments than those caused by intoxicating doses of alcohol because cannabis-affected people drive more slowly and take fewer risks.” (Hall)
      iii. “…increases heart rate by 20 percent to 100 percent, thus elevating the risk of heart attack.” (Stimson)

   b. Eventual destructive behavior
      i. “Fewer than 2 percent of California cardholders have HIV, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, or cancer. One survey found that the typical California medical-marijuana patient was a healthy 32-year-old man with a history of drug and alcohol abuse.” (Frum)
      1. The "negative" connotation that weed users have
      ii. "A battery of studies have found regular marijuana use to be associated with worse outcomes at school, social life, and work.” (Frum)

   c. Legal purposes
      i. "Marijuana is a starter drug of choice for most criminals." (Stimson) - Timmy
      1. The idea that marijuana = crime (stereotypes)
ii. "In the USA, Australia, and New Zealand, regular cannabis users were most likely to later use heroin and cocaine." (Hall)

1. Could lead to more trouble with the law with harder drugs

iii. "These arrests fall disproportionately on blacks and Latinos, although whites consume marijuana at the same rate or higher. Many of those who are arrested are saddled with a criminal conviction that can make it difficult or impossible to vote, obtain educational loans, get a job, secure housing, or even adopt a child." (Medical)

2. Marijuana should be legalized for other purposes

   a. Medical Advantages
      i. "Marijuana has been shown to alleviate symptoms of a huge variety of serious medical conditions including cancer, AIDS, and glaucoma, and is often an effective alternative to synthetic painkillers." (Medical)

         1. Can help to alleviate diseases and symptoms that nothing else can

      ii. "The medicinal use of the cannabis plant was a safe and effective arthritis treatment." (Noe)

      iii. "Twenty states and the District of Columbia have passed medical marijuana laws legalizing the use and production of medical marijuana for qualifying patients under state law." (Medical)

         1. If other states have already legalized it, why shouldn't the entire country?

      iv. "The deaths per year are as followed: Tobacco: 400,000  Alcohol: 100,000  Prescription Pain Killers: 20,000  Illegal Drugs: 15,000  Caffeine: 2,000  Aspirin: 500  Marijuana: 0" (West)

         1. Proof that marijuana is a lot less harmful than other intoxicating sources

   b. Helping to improve our nation's economy

      i. "Legalizing and regulating marijuana will bring the nation's largest cash crop under the rule of law, creating jobs and economic opportunities in the formal economy instead of the illicit market." (Medical)

      ii. "Scare law enforcement resources that could be better used to protect public safety would be preserved while reducing corrections and court costs." (Medical)

      iii. "Law enforcement wastes billions of dollars cracking down on the illegal distribution of marijuana." (West)

         1. If we legalized it, it could both be saving our country money, and producing income to put towards the national debt.

   c. ZINGER: Those who are unintelligent enough to believe that legalizing marijuana will only further hurt our country are completely unaware of the fact that it could both save lives and fully erase our national debt.