

Research proposal: Legalizing marijuana

What is your argument?

My argument: Cannabis is the plant from which marijuana is derived and consumed as a drug. Marijuana should be legalized in North America for recreational and for medicinal use. California has attempted to legalize marijuana with Proposition 19 in 2010. However, this proposition failed to pass into law. After I explore the various attempts to legalize marijuana, I will propose a possible compromise that might actually make legalizing marijuana beneficial for individuals in North America.

Why is this argument important for you to research and write about?

This argument is important to me because marijuana is considered a "gateway drug," which has not been scientifically proven. I know many individuals who smoke marijuana for recreational use, and even though it is considered an illegal substance, they risk breaking the law and facing legal consequences. However, part of my argument is that if marijuana is legalized in North America, I predict that many underage individuals will possibly decrease since it is no longer a "risk" to get caught smoking marijuana. Also, I predict that once marijuana is legalized, those individuals who smoke it on a recreational basis, will continue to do so.

How do you plan to go about researching this argument? What sources do you plan to use?

I plan to read as much as I can on how individuals and organizations have tried to legalize marijuana. I plan to examine and analyze how the sources I find use language to discuss the legalization of marijuana. While I plan to argue for the legalization of marijuana, I also plan to explore and analyze some of the arguments against legalizing it.

Have at least 4 credible sources

1. Legalization of Marijuana website: <http://legalizationofmarijuana.com/>
2. Normal - Working to Reform Marijuana Laws website: <http://norml.org/>
3. The White House's Response to Legalizing Marijuana website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/petitions#!/response/what-we-have-say-about-legalizing-marijuana>
4. Statistics on Marijuana website: http://www.marijuana-addiction.org/Marijuana_Statistics.htm

Have a timeline for when things need to be done

Timeline of anticipated events:

- April 9-20 – Start my “reading around” over my topic to find sources
- April 11-30 – Work on my writing out of my argument
- April 15-19 – Conduct my 5-question survey, using SurveyMonkey.com
- April 21-24 – Collect my survey data and analyze it for my research
- April 25-29 – Touch up and revise my writing

Research proposal: Same sex marriage

What is your argument?

The idea of same sex marriage is a heavily debated topic in the United States. While many individuals and organizations argue against granting gay couples the same rights to marry in a court of law, many of these individuals and organizations usually cite arguments such as same sex marriages will destroy the institution of marriage, the increase in polygamy, the government's influence of promoting gay culture and tolerance and that the social security system will not be able to afford supporting heterosexual and homosexual couples. While these arguments might be easy to debunk or prove unjustifiable, they fail to address the issue of how modern marriage is defined, which is the union of a man and a woman in the eyes of the law and not necessarily in the eyes of God. In this sense, marriage between heterosexual and homosexual couples is more of a legal matter than a religious one. Therefore, I will analyze various documents that exploit the concept of marriage from a religious standpoint and argue against them that it is strictly legal matter.

Why is this argument important for you to research and write about?

This topic is important for me to research and write about because I know many individuals who are in a same sex relationship and would like to marry. However, same sex couples have to face opposition from many different communities, such as religious and the legal. I do not plan to resolve this issue, but I do plan to locate, analyze and argue against the rhetoric and language that is used to argue against same sex marriage. Finally, I will propose developing a new kind of rhetoric and discussion on same sex marriage that describes it from a strictly a legal perspective. Should same sex couples be allowed to marry in the United States? yes, I believe that they should be allowed to marry.

How do you plan to go about researching this argument? What sources do you plan to use?

In order to research and write about my argument, I will locate and analyze various documents that use a religious rhetoric to argue against same sex marriage in the United States. While many of my sources will be electronic, such as websites or digital articles, I will also conduct two semi-formal interviews with two same sex couples.

Have at least 4 credible sources

1. National Center for Lesbian Rights: <http://www.nclrights.org/site/PageServer?gclid=CKupnsGlpK8CFWvktgoditTC9Yg>
2. The Weekly Standard article - "The worst thing about gay marriage: It's not going to work" - <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/533narty.asp>
3. Anti Gay Marriage Arguments website: <http://nosamesexmarriage.com/marriage/nogaymarriage.php>
4. NY Daily News website - "Five arguments against gay marriage: Society must brace for corrosive change:" http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-06-23/news/29710731_1_gay-marriage-traditional-marriage-gay-advocates

Have a timeline for when things need to be done

Timeline of anticipated events:

- April 9-13 – Do my research over my topic to find and analyze my sources
- April 15-19 – Start to write my analysis over the various articles, websites and books arguing against same sex marriage
- April 21-24 – Conduct my two semi-formal interviews of two same sex couples to get their perspectives on the arguments against same sex marriage
- April 21-29 – Work on writing out of my argument
- April 25-29 – Touch up and revise my writing

Research proposal: National or universal healthcare programs

What is your argument?

National healthcare is a kind of healthcare program that is instituted by law. One of the most famous forms of a national healthcare program is in Germany and in Canada. Essentially, a country's government usually designs its national healthcare program. The purpose of this argument is to analyze the various arguments against establishing a universal healthcare system in the United States. Many arguments against establishing universal healthcare in the U. S. include tampering with one of the best healthcare systems on the planet, creating a kind of socialist form of healthcare and allowing the government to decide the kind of healthcare we will receive. While these arguments seem valid, there are also some benefits to establishing a national or universal healthcare program in the U. S., there are also some benefits as well. I will argue in this essay the various benefits of establishing a national or universal healthcare system in the U. S.

Why is this argument important for you to research and write about?

The importance of this topic affects many citizens in the United States. Personally, working and going to college costs not only money but also creates stress and worry about what I will do if I need health insurance in case I become ill. I am curious as to the benefits and the advantages of a national or universal healthcare system in the U. S. I also think that many people's lives could be drastically changed by instituting a national or universal healthcare system.

How do you plan to go about researching this argument? What sources do you plan to use?

I mostly plan to research various websites, electronic articles and texts on this topic in order to see the way in which they describe and discuss the topic of a national or universal healthcare program. I may also conduct a short survey of my classmates to see how well they are informed on this topic.

Have at least 4 credible sources

1. Things Considered Hubpages website - "Arguments against universal healthcare in America:"
2. <http://thingsconsidered.hubpages.com/hub/Arguments-Against-Universal-Healthcare-in-America>
3. The Atlantic - "Why I oppose national healthcare:" <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2009/07/why-i-oppose-national-health-care/22300/>
4. Balanced politics website - "Should the government provide free universal healthcare for all Americans?" http://www.balancedpolitics.org/universal_health_care.htm
5. The Huffington Post - "Why the Supreme Court wants to kill universal healthcare:" http://www.balancedpolitics.org/universal_health_care.htm

Have a timeline for when things need to be done

Timeline of anticipated events:

- April 9-21 – Do my research over my topic to find and analyze my sources
- April 15-19 – Survey my classmates on my topic and analyze my data
- April 21-24 – Work on my writing out of my argument
- April 25-29 – Touch up and revise my writing

Research proposal: Teenage abortion

What is your argument?

My argument: Abortion has been a topic of intense debate in many communities in the United States as well as around the world. In the U. S., many teenage girls choose abortion for many different reasons. Some of these reasons for choosing abortion include unpreparedness to raise a child, inability to afford a child and interfering with their education and/or career. However, health risks may also be a factor in some teenage pregnancies. In this essay, I will argue that while movies such as Juno (2007) and public figures such as Jamie Lynn Spears and Bristol Palin somewhat promote a romantic or glamorous view of teenage pregnancy, the reality for many teenage girls in the U. S. is not so romantic or glamorous. I will argue that teenage abortion is a decision that should be left up to the individual.

Why is this argument important for you to research and write about?

This topic is important to me because I have watched how various movies and public figures have come to portray teenage pregnancies in the U. S. I believe that there can exist certain circumstances in which teenage girls should seek an abortion. While it depends on the circumstances, reasons for abortion could include unpreparedness in raising a child, health risks and family and partner involvement.

How do you plan to go about researching this argument? What sources do you plan to use?

I plan to read over various credible articles on the Internet as well as studies on teenage abortion. I will also conduct a survey of 10-15 people to gauge their perspectives on teenage abortion.

Have at least 4 credible sources

1. Teen Breaks website: <http://www.teenbreaks.com/abortion/abortionhome.cfm>
2. Beginning too soon: Adolescent sexual behavior, pregnancy and parenthood a review of research interventions article: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/HSP/cyp/xsteesex.htm>
3. Time U. S. article, "Sex on TV increases teen pregnancy, says report:" <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1855842,00.html>
4. Does Watching Sex on Television Predict Teen Pregnancy? Findings From a National Longitudinal Survey of Youth article: <http://www.pediatricsdigest.mobi/content/122/5/1047.full>

Have a timeline for when things need to be done

- April 9-13 – Do my research over my topic to find and analyze my sources
- April 13-14 – Survey 10-15 people on my topic and analyze my data
- April 17-24 – Work on my writing out of my argument
- April 25-29 – Touch up and revise my writing