Student name  
Grade 8/Required task  
ELA/Ms. Walker   
*\*MEDIUM EXEMPLAR*

Controlled Substances Act: Too Controlled?

Since 1970, the U.S Congress has declared marijuana part of the “Controlled Substances Act,” primarily because the government determined that it to have "no reasonable purpose for medical use.” Despite this fact and since then, 23 of 50 U.S states have neglected to agree with U.S Congress and have voted to legalize marijuana for the purpose of the medical use, treatments and experimentation, etc. In addition, as of 2015, it was been widely known that citizens as well as government officials all over the U.S have been publically campaigning to allow marijuana to be legalized in all 50 states for the purposes of: medical use, treatments, and experimentation, etc. While it is clear many people believe that medicinal marijuana (marijuana used for medical purposes; given to citizens by licensed physicians with prescriptions) is perfectly acceptable in today’s society, this is still a very controversial topic in our country today.

Those who support the use of medicinal marijuana believe that this substance helps others suffering from various health concerns and the symptoms caused by each. For example, "evidence has proven that marijuana can relieve certain types of symptoms from various medical/health issues such as: pain, nausea, vomiting and other symptoms caused by such illnesses as multiple sclerosis, cancer and even AIDS. Supporters of the legalization of marijuana in all 50 states also remind us that “medicinal marijuana can also help ease the effects of other harsh drugs sometimes used to treat specific medical conditions, and can do so with remarkable safety.” Indeed, marijuana seems to be less toxic or harmful to patients than many other types’ drugs which physicians prescribe to patients every day. This infers that if people were to experience painful symptoms continuously, the possibility of receiving medicinal marijuana can be just as, if not more effective than just any other drug prescribed daily to thousands of Americans in the U.S.

While medicinal medical marijuana certainly has its benefits, there are still many people who do *not* believe marijuana is the best drug to choice for pain relief and other medical purposes. Although it is widely believed that medicinal marijuana could be the most effective substance in regards to combating certain medical ailments, I would caution against this assumption due to the lack of consistent, repeatable and scientific data available to prove marijuana's medical benefits. Based on current evidence, I believe that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that there are less dangerous medicines offering the same relief from pain and other medical symptoms. Other opponents of medicinal marijuana also argue that “it is too dangerous to use, lacks FDA-approval, and that various legal drugs make marijuana use unnecessary,” according to the website procon.org. It is also known that in general, marijuana is addictive and can easily lead to “harder drug” use. Other “side effects” of being addicted to marijuana include: interference with fertility, impairment of driving abilities, and can easily lead to various bodily injuries related to the lungs, immune system, and even the human brain.

Due to the risk factors previously described, it ca not be dined that medical marijuana is a controversial subject in the United States today. No one wants to see their loved ones suffer from addiction and the side-effects of addiction needlessly, and there is a good case to be made that federal law enforcement should focus its limited resources on major drug producers and distributors. Simply stated, marijuana is *not* medicine, and it is not a “cure-all” based on science or scientific research. In fact, anyone living with smoked medical marijuana in their state knows that it has turned into more of a mockery than medicine for those in need of support or pain relief. In fact, as recently as this past summer (July, 2015), the FDA ruled that “raw marijuana (which contains hundreds of unknown components) did *not* meet its general standards of safety and efficacy. And the drug failed an exhaustive eight-factor scientific analysis that examined hundreds of studies on the plant's health effects.” [The FDA's position has also been affirmed](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=6376&page=178) by independent scientific bodies like the National Academies of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine (IOM), which famously determined that “there is little future in using marijuana as a medically approved medication.”

Overall, I do not support the legalization of medical marijuana in all 50 states of the U.S. While marijuana can possibly be used as a healing agent for certain types of pain or symptoms it is not an indefinite “cure” or even technically a “medicine.” Using marijuana for medical purposes is simply too much of dangerous risk to take. Not only does the idea of using medical marijuana lack approval from the FDA, but is known to be an addictive substance which can cause more bodily harm to those who are already suffering from health alignments than help. Until proved otherwise and more accurately by scientific studies, I would caution against the full-support of medical marijuana in our country, especially due to the lack of consistent, repeatable and scientific data available to prove marijuana's medical benefits. Remember; there are less dangerous medicines offering the same or better relief from pain and other medical symptoms than marijuana ever could! Stay healthy and safe. ☺

\*www.procon.org