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**Follow Up Questions on Legalization of Marijuana**

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## Follow Up Questions on Legalization of Marijuana

### Part one

1. While looking for sources relevant to my topic, I will critically examine a source to identify any form of bias (authors) and scrutinize the source's historical context. The age of the source is crucial in research, but the importance differs based on the topic. I will avoid websites because they sometimes do not have publishers, but I will consider websites of well-known entities like the World Health organization and government websites.
2. Locating and citing credible information borders on effective communication. Using credible sources helps build reputation and trustworthiness, but more importantly, it gives you the authority in your domain of study.
3. Reliable sources are thorough, well-researched, the argument is clear, and the findings are evaluated. Any reliable sources, regardless where it is found, should include an authority. The author is well-known and respected in the field of study, and the information is accurate, objective, and up-to-date.
4. In researching my topic, I found two authors who used rhetorical devices, namely logos and ethos. Authors like Keyhani et al. (2018) use logos by quoting respectable entities like the World Health Organization in their article to appeal to the reader's logic. Campbell et al., (2017) use pathos when he suggests that the community champions the legalization of cannabis. In this manner, he invokes the curiosity of readers to continue reading the publication to understand why society has adopted a drastic position.
5. **Avery, J. A. (2018). MARIJUANA. TODAY'S CHRISTIAN DOCTOR.**

This source is dated 2018 and was written by Doctor James Avery of the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). Apart from being a medical practitioner, James Avery has

conducted research and wrote several articles and books on different topics like marijuana and emotion while also dispelling truth from myths about different diseases.

**Campbell, W., Twenge, J., & Carter, N. (2017). Support For Marijuana (Cannabis)**

**Legalization: Untangling Age, Period, And Cohort Effects. *Collabra: Psychology*, 3(1).**

The research paper is dated 2017 and was written by Campbell et al. Campbell, and his colleagues have researched to understand the use of cannabis among different age groups. Their journals and other publications are found in academic libraries. The authors are academicians and researchers who aim to dispel some of the rumors surrounding the safety of marijuana. This piece is an academic journal.

**Caulkins, J. P. (2016). The Real Dangers of Marijuana. *National Affairs*, (Winter 2016), 2134.**

Jonathan Caulkins' publication is dated 2016. He is an academician and a university scholar who commands authority in different respects. Furthermore, his publication is an academic source that is not only credible but useful in research. This publication is an academic piece.

**Keyhani, S., Steigerwald, S., Ishida, J., Vali, M., Cerdá, M., Hasin, D., & Cohen, B. E.**

**(2018). Risks and Benefits of Marijuana Use: A National Survey of US Adults. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 169(5), 282-290.**

Keyhani et al. is dated 2018 and was written by a group of academic scholars after a national survey to understand the use of marijuana among adults in the United States. These authors are not only academicians but researchers who have made different contributions in the

field of medicine through research and surveys. In addition to that, the source is considered academic material crucial in research as a reference tool.

**Saadeh, C. E., & Rustem, D. R. (2018). Medical Marijuana Use in a Community Cancer Center. *Journal of Oncology Practice*, 14(9), E566-E578.**

The journal is dated 2018 and was written by Claire E. Saadeh and Danielle R. Rustem, two academicians in oncology practice. The journal is an academic source.

### **Part 2**

1. The topic is "Legalizing Marijuana."
2. I selected the topic because it is one of the hottest topics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that has elicited mixed reactions between people for decades. Some oppose the legalization of marijuana with genuine concerns. However, some support the legalization of marijuana due to the potential benefits if it was legal. Most importantly, I chose this topic to reflect and explain my position after reading about it for a lengthy period.
3. Though I support the legalization of marijuana, some of the arguments regarding the opposition to the legalization of marijuana are insensitive, uncalled for, and in my opinion, do not make sense. When someone argues that we should not legalize marijuana, it will make non-smokers start smoking and advance to hard drugs like heroin and cocaine. Secondly, my interest grew when I learn that scientists and medical experts have also supported the legalization of cannabis.
4. I have invested significant time in researching this topic. For instance, I read different articles published on the topic, including non-academic publications, before settling for the five peer-reviewed articles that are credible and current. In addition to that, I have

also watched videos on numerous presentations suggesting we should legalize cannabis and the benefits therein.

5. My paper intends to support the arguments championed by economists and healthcare providers regarding the benefits of legalizing marijuana. I intend to analyze the information put forward by proponents of legalizing marijuana and what scientists are saying. Furthermore, my paper references information from five credible academic articles published by respected entities in their distinct fields.
6. The argument is simple. Marijuana should be legalized. The counterargument is that marijuana should not be legalized, and the reasons in support and against are provided in the paper.
7. I will prove and support my argument by referencing material from five credible sources. In addition to that, I will also expound on existing arguments while also mentioning some of the counterarguments, fallacies, and dispelling these fallacious arguments.
8. I am a Christian who was brought up to speak my mind when an issue arises. Furthermore, my upbringing is different from others because the society I grew up in was not violent. I did not witness some of the atrocities common in drug-infested neighborhoods. I grew up around academicians and experts in different fields who encouraged me always to seek sense in my arguments.
9. My pre-deposition is that marijuana is a naturally growing plant with medicinal properties that must be exploited, just like other plant species.
10. My conclusion was based on scientific arguments championed by medical doctors regarding the health benefits of legalizing marijuana.

11. I have interacted with medical experts who have told me that there are potential benefits of legalizing cannabis, especially terminally ill patients who can use the drug to relieve the pain caused by diseases like cancer. I have also interacted with community members who engage in the sale and distribution of the drug during my research. There is substantial economic potential in the legalization of marijuana, given the amount of money rotating between cartels selling and distributing cannabis, money that the government considers illegal.
12. Though my connection with the topic may be subjective, I have witnessed cases where terminally ill patients live with the pain, yet a drug can help them.
13. I have taken time to study both sides of the argument regarding the topic, including the problems associated with cannabis. However, the advantages of the drug outweigh its disadvantages if legalized.
14. One of the strongest arguments is that marijuana has medicinal properties that can assist the terminally ill members of society. Another argument is that the marijuana industry can employ millions and generate revenue for the country if legalized. Presently, the drug industry is run by cartels who have made fortunes from the growing and distribution of the drug, albeit illegally.
15. The most vital part of the counterargument is that legalizing marijuana will obliterate future generations by encouraging young men and women to start using cannabis and later advance and start using hard drugs like heroin and cocaine. These are genuine concerns that we can address by legalizing marijuana but regulating its consumption just like alcoholic drinks.

16. I am making an objective claim by arguing that the government should legalize marijuana. An objective claim is factual and cannot be proved as accurate or otherwise. Scientific data suggest that marijuana has medicinal properties, which is a fact, not an opinion, personal view, or belief, as suggested in a subjective argument. Research suggests that marijuana has both economic and medicinal properties that, if exploited, can be beneficial to the nation; hence I am objective in my argument.
17. I am making a deductive claim in defending my position using available data and research from credible sources written by credible academicians in respectable fields. Deductive reasoning uses facts, available information, and understanding from credible sources to make an argument, and that is what I am doing in my paper. Scientific data have already backed my argument, unlike inductive argument that is generalized, adopts a top-down approach, and is subject to manipulation upon the realization of new evidence.

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