

## Project: Both Sides of the Issue of the Legalization of Drugs

Write a paper analyzing the arguments about legalizing drugs in the United States. Billions of dollars have been spent on the "war on drugs." Seventy-five percent of people in prison are there on drug or drug-related crime charges. Do we need more severe drug laws? Would legalization benefit society? Which drugs should be legal? How would the cost of drugs be affected? How would the cost of drugs affect violent crimes? Should the state protect people from harm to themselves? What has history taught us about government control? Can the success or failure of drug laws in other countries help us decide?

So you can gain an understanding of both sides of the issue and get experience in identifying and defending the side of the issue that you disagree with, structure your paper as follows:

**TITLE:** Would the Legalization of Drugs Benefit American Society?

**AUTHOR:** Your name

**INTRODUCTION:** Write one or two paragraphs briefly explaining what specific laws would be changed and the controversy surrounding the issue.

**PRO SIDE:** Write one sentence saying that legalization of drugs in the United States would benefit society.

**SUPPORT:** Write a short statement explaining why society would benefit. Write at least three paragraphs supporting the statement, using at least three different sources.

**CON SIDE:** Write one sentence saying that legalization of drugs in the United States would not benefit society.

**SUPPORT:** Write a short statement explaining why legalization of drugs in the United States would not benefit society. Write at least three paragraphs supporting the statement, using three different sources.

**PERSONAL OPINION:** Write your views and conclusions based on the arguments you have already presented. You must support one side or the other.

**WORKS CITED:** List references for all sources that you have used.

## Schools add tobacco to list for student drug screening

### Critics say tests are an invasion of kids' privacy

Some schools are administering urine tests to teenagers to determine if they have been using tobacco. Random drug testing of students involved in extracurricular activities has been affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, but opponents say such tests violate the students' rights.

This headline appeared in a local newspaper in October 2002. Do you think it is an invasion of individual privacy to be subjected to random drug testing in school? How about for participating in after-school events? What about attending after-school events? Do you think that tobacco products should be included in the drug testing programs? Is tobacco a drug? What Constitutional Amendment pertains to individual privacy?