The Medical Benefits of Marijuana Use

Corey Brandon

PHI 103: Informal Logic

Ashford University

Professor John Wise

February 25, 2019

**The Medical Benefits of Marijuana Use**

 **Introduction**

There are several arguments and mixed emotions about the medical benefit usage of marijuana. Scientists, doctors, researchers, and all kinds of policymakers all feel strongly against the use of marijuana to treat patients or support the use of the drug to treat patients and certain sicknesses or disease. The focus of this paper will be to present scholarly research that has been conducted from all party’s that are for or against the use of marijuana and to support my findings with good substantial and supportive information properly.

**The Presentation of An Argument of the Medical Benefits of Marijuana Use**

 Marijuana is known as a gateway drug, and it has been classified by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as an illegal Schedule I drug that has no accepted medical use. In recent year’s studies have been conducted and have shown that medical marijuana is effective in controlling chronic non-cancer pain; it alleviates nausea and controls muscle spasms due to multiple sclerosis. These studies that have been conducted have shown that the alleviating benefits far outweigh the adverse effects of the drug and should be recommended to patients or have failed to respond to other medical therapy. Medical marijuana has gained support from the pharmaceutical industry in individual states, after currently being legalized in 16 states and the District of Columbia. This is very strange being that it is a contrast to the government stance on zero-tolerance, which has led to debates in the United States among the government and medical agency (Reefer madness—the federal response to California’s medical-marijuana law) (Annas GJ N Engl J Med. 1997 Aug 7 pg337).

**Premise 1:** Usage of medical marijuana can be used to treat chronic pain and epilepsy patients

**Premise 2:** Recent studies have shown that medical marijuana can be used to control pain and nausea from chemotherapy

**Premise 3:** 46 percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana

**Premise 4:** National Institute of Health (NIH) in 2011 allocated $2 million in the form of 4-5 grants for marijuana research

**Premise 5:** Medical Marijuana Patch being developed, Medical Marijuana Delivery Systems (MMDS) the inventor is Walter Cristobal

**Conclusion:** Medical marijuana has many reasons that it can be used to assist in patients’ illnesses to help them cope with the pain. The studies have shown the evidence along with the money spent on the project studies to ensure that the drug helps the patients and is not doing more harm.

 The benefits and the use of medical marijuana to treat illnesses are very strong, and the government has set aside money to continue the study of the drug for its health healing capabilities. The article roughly supports and substantiates the information by revealing the finding through studies and test being conducted. The data shows that 46 percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana (Gallup Poll.Oct 28.2010). Failure to provide an available therapy that has been proven effective violates the fundamental ethical principle of beneficence, a physician’s duties include preventing and removing harm, as well as benefiting the patients best interest.

**Presentation of an Argument That the Benefits of Marijuana is not Safe**

Some medical professionals and scientist still argue that marijuana has no positive effects on patients to help with illness. Marijuana has been legalized among some states, but it should be regulated because the drug is natural to be distributed on the streets and it should not be in the hands of kids. The fight against drug abuse is important because there are so many lives lost to drug overdose or abuse. Marijuana contains over 460 known compounds, sixty of which are cannabinoids. There are also several carcinogens presented in marijuana smoke with the primary psychoactive compound in the drug being THC which causes the potency of the drug. The top priority should be for the government to reclassify the drug as a Schedule II drug which would enable dispensaries, clinics, pharmacies, and physicians to provide patients with standardized, unadulterated forms of marijuana.

**Premises 1:** Marijuana is a gateway drug to more harsher drugs

**Premises 2:** THC is sold on the black market

**Premises 3:** FDA may intervene to regulate the productions of the drug

**Premises 4:** Marijuana should not be sold or smoked in the vicinity of kids, or only in authorized places

**Premise 5**: Marijuana use results in decreased psychomotor function, and reactions time, causing driving risks (Neavyn, Blohm, Babu, & Bird, 2014).

**Evaluation of Arguments:**

 Documented findings which support the research has supported the conclusion of this argument. The premises are supported. However, there are pros and cons outlined in this essay. The fight against drug abuse is, but studies have shown that medical marijuana can help ease the pain as well as reduce cancer lumps. In this essay, I have outlined the different effects and downfalls with the use of this drug. I have pulled this information from scholarly sources in which the data is pertinent and validated.

 **In Conclusion**

 In conclusion, I have outlined in this paper some ways to reflect as much as possible the actual ways in which medical marijuana may be a benefit as well as why it may not be a benefit to the public or patients. Medical practices could both benefit people according to choice and cultural backgrounds, but more research on the treatments could greatly be done to help move forward with making everyone more comfortable with the drug and to make a more informed decision.

**References**

Jonas WB. Alternative medicine-Learning from the past, examining the Present, Advancing to the Future. Jama. 1998;280(18)

Sixteen legal medical marijuana states and DC. Sept 19, 2011, <https://medicalmarijuana.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000881>

Thomas J. The Past, and future of medical marijuana in the United States. Psychiatric Times <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1507650>