

Check off these boxes as you complete them:

- Put your name here: _____ And also on the back. (5 pts)
- Highlight or underline important information (5 pts)
- Annotate by making comments in the margins, minimum of 5 (5pts)
- Define your vocabulary words in the designated vocabulary space by googling them or looking them up on the website (10 pts)
- Goes into effect AOW 2:** List the kind of organizational pattern this article uses and why by filling in the template below:
This article uses _____ because _____. (10 pts)
- Under prompt (bottom of page), plan 2 guiding reasons and 2 SPECIFIC, NAMED examples. (10 pts)
- Include a thesis with points A and B. Be sure to include two persuasive examples in body paragraphs, one in body paragraph 1 and another in body paragraph 2 (10 pts)
- Give a persuasive response to the WRITE statement at the bottom of the page by writing an essay on the back. Make sure to choose only ONE side of the argument in your writing. We NEVER write about both sides. (up to 30 pts)
- DO NOT USE “I” or “you” when writing your response. Form opinions WITHOUT IT. (5 pts)
- Make sure that your essay uses PARAGRAPHS. This means, 1. Indent 2. No skipping lines between paragraphs 3. A paragraph is MORE than just one sentence 4. Minimum of 4 paragraphs. (10 pts)



War on Drugs

America is at war. We have been fighting drug abuse for almost a century. Four Presidents have personally waged war on drugs. Unfortunately, it is a war that we are losing. Drug abusers continue to fill our courts, hospitals, and prisons. The drug trade causes violent crime that ravages our neighborhoods. Children of drug abusers are neglected, abused, and even abandoned. The only beneficiaries of this war are organized crime members and drug dealers.

The United States has focused its efforts on the criminalization of drug use. The government has, to no avail, spent countless billions of dollars in efforts to eradicate the supply of drugs. Efforts of interdiction and law enforcement have not been met with decreases in the availability of drugs in America. Apart from being highly costly, drug law enforcement has been counterproductive. Current drug laws need to be relaxed. The United States needs to shift spending from law enforcement and penalization to education, treatment, and prevention.

Drugs first surfaced in the United States in the 1800's. Opium became very popular after the American Civil War. Cocaine followed in the 1880's. Coca was popularly used in health drinks and remedies. Morphine was discovered in 1906 and used for medicinal purposes. Heroin was used to treat respiratory illness, cocaine was used in Coca-Cola, and morphine was regularly prescribed by doctors as a pain reliever. The turn of the century witnessed a heightened awareness that psychotropic drugs have a great potential for causing addiction. The abuse of opium and cocaine at the end of the 19th century reached epidemic proportions. Local governments began prohibiting opium dens and opium importation. In 1906 the Pure Food and Drug Act required all physicians to accurately label their medicines. Drugs were no longer seen as harmless remedies for aches and pains.

The Harrison Narcotics Act, passed in 1914, was the United States' first federal drug policy. The act restricted the manufacture and sale of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and morphine. The act was aggressively enforced. Physicians, who were prescribing drugs to addicts on “maintenance” programs were harshly punished. Between 1915 and 1938, more than 5,000 physicians were convicted and fined or jailed. In 1919, The Supreme Court ruled against the maintenance of addicts as a legitimate form of treatment in *Webb et al. v. United States*. America's first federal drug policy targeted physicians and pharmacists.

In 1930, the Treasury Department created the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. Harry J. Anslinger headed the agency until 1962 and molded America's drug policy. Under his tenure, drugs were increasingly criminalized. The Boggs Act of 1951 drastically increased the penalties for marijuana use. The Narcotics Control Act of 1956 created “the most punitive and repressive anti-narcotics legislation ever adopted by Congress. All discretion to suspend sentences or permit probation was eliminated. Parole was allowed only for first offenders convicted of possession, and the death penalty could be invoked for anyone who sold heroin to a minor.” Anslinger was critical of judges for being too easy on drug dealers and called for longer minimum sentences. He established a punitive drug policy with a focus on drug law enforcement.

The Federal Bureau of Narcotics also used propaganda as a preventative measure. They created myths and horror stories about drugs. Marijuana was blamed for bizarre cases of insanity, murder, and sex crimes. Anslinger said that marijuana caused some people to “fly into a delirious rage and many commit violent crimes.” It is puzzling that Anslinger and the FBN fabricated such tales, while there existed less dramatic, but

true horror stories connected to drug abuse. The propaganda of the 1940's and 1950's was often so far-fetched that people simply didn't believe the government's warnings about drugs.

The 1960's gave birth to a rebellious movement that popularized drug use. The counterculture made marijuana fashionable on college campuses. Other "hippies" sought to expand their minds with the use of hallucinogens like LSD. Many soldiers returned from the Vietnam War with marijuana and heroin habits. In short, the demand for drugs in America skyrocketed in the 1960's.

The United States has been engaged in a "war" for nearly 25 years. A war in which there is a great deal of confusion as to why we are engaged in it, and if we are in the war for the right reasons. The resolution of the war is curtailed by varying opinions and subjective statistical proof. The war which has been a continuing struggle, is the "war on drugs". At the heart of this war is a fundamental question: Is this a battle the United States can win? It is likely everyone will agree drugs are harmful, they have serious medical side-effects. Drugs are addictive; can ruin a family, a job, a life. I agree that drugs have very negative side effects, but is the solution to fight a very costly and ineffective battle to eradicate drugs entirely? Is this even a possibility?

Define vocabulary here:

Archetype: _____

Allusion: _____

Motif: _____

Internal Conflict: _____

External Conflict: _____

WRITE an essay stating your position on whether or not the war on drugs is effective.

A: _____ → _____

B: _____ → _____

(Reason)

(Example)

