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# Does Marijuana Legalization Help or Hurt?

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Segment Length: 2:27 minutes; 4:51 minutes

## **Videos:**

“The Big Problem with Legalizing Marijuana”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa6GpqxDWm4>

“Legal Weed So Far”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?&v=O83mQcnJryE>

## **Guide:**

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## **Analysis Questions:**

1. The first video notes that youth are at twice the risk of developing an addiction to marijuana than are adults using it at the same level. What does the Stossel video have to suggest about the relationship between banning marijuana and its availability to teens?
2. Both videos mention driving under the influence of marijuana. How does the Stossel video show that drugged driving statistics can be flawed? Does this prove that drugged driving incidents have not increased in Colorado, where recreational marijuana is legal?
3. In each video we briefly see the effect legalization can have on attitudes toward marijuana. How might public perception of marijuana change if the drug is legalized? How could this change in perception be good? What could be some negative effects of such changed perception?
4. The first video claims that legalizing marijuana will lead to big business promoting the drug with advertising. According to the video, how can alcohol and tobacco advertising help us understand the possible consequences of marijuana marketing and high-level manufacturing?
5. According to John Stossel, we should remember the legacy of alcohol prohibition in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. What parallels can be seen between outlawing each substance? How might the situation be different with marijuana?

6. John Stossel argues that Americans should be free to poison their own bodies if they so choose. Paul Chabot disagrees. How might a critic of marijuana legalization respond to John Stossel?
7. Sources disagree as to whether legalizing marijuana has led to increased use among youth. Why is John Stossel skeptical of research coming from prosecutors?
8. John Stossel interviewed one woman who claimed that a marijuana dispensary cleaned up the corner near her home. Besides the effects related to marijuana use, how might legalization create change in areas such as the economy?