



Professor Wagner

ENGL 1302.0513

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### Annotated Bibliography: Classification of Marijuana

1. What is the legislative history of the classification of marijuana? Were there any big legislative moments?
2. What are the current crimes and punishments for marijuana possession?
3. Who is the most affected by these laws? Why?
4. Who or what groups lead the marijuana legislation process?
5. What actions have been taken to combat/tackle marijuana possession and what were the consequences?
6. How are those who were arrested for marijuana charges treated?
7. What is life like for those who were arrested and charged?
8. What actions are being taken to reclassify marijuana and what was their impact? Is there still a pushback?

Fernelius, Katie Jane. "The Truth about Marijuana and the Criminal Legal System." *The Appeal*, The Appeal, 20 Apr. 2022, <https://theappeal.org/marijuana-arrests-420/>.

In the article "The Truth about Marijuana and the Criminal Legal System", Katie Jane Fernelius discusses some myths about marijuana and the criminal legal system. Fernelius addresses certain myths like that no one really gets arrested for weed possession in today's climate. Fernelius tackles this myth by stating how marijuana drug arrests are still high in comparison to other drug arrests. She also addresses the myth that the legalization of marijuana will end the racial

disparities in the policing of drugs. She states that the legalization of marijuana might not be enough to tackle this issue and more factors must come into play to truly solve the problem. In this article, Fernelius uses a lot of key information and details when disproving these myths. While trying to tackle the myth that no one really gets arrested for marijuana, she utilizes key information from the ACLU. Fernelius states “approximately 39 out of every 100 drug arrests that year were for mere possession of marijuana” (Fernelius). She also states “racial disparities in those arrests have not improved, and in some jurisdictions, they have worsened” (Fernelius). Fernelius uses this information to show that marijuana possession charges are still a prominent issue for people of color which plays a part in their encounters with law enforcement. This source has some parts with interesting information about possession charges that I could use in the future for my paper.

Jorgensen, Cody. “How Marijuana Legalization Would Benefit the Criminal Justice System.”

*The Blue Review*, Boise State University, 14 Nov. 2022,

<https://www.boisestate.edu/bluereview/how-marijuana-legalization-would-benefit-the-criminal-justice-system/>.

In the article “How Marijuana Legalization Would Benefit the Criminal Justice System”, Cody Jorgensen presents an evidence-based argument for the legalization of marijuana which suggests that it would be beneficial for the criminal justice system. Throughout the article, Jergensen describes how marijuana prohibition is not beneficial for American society because it is undemocratic, racially-biased, ineffective, detrimental, costly, and wasteful. Jorgensen notes that the American public is going to be less likely to view the criminal justice system as credible or legitimate if marijuana continues to be prohibited. This article has a couple of sections in it with key information. Later in the article, Jergensen describes how marijuana prohibition is racially

biased. Jorgensen states that “minorities and the poor are much more likely to be arrested for simple marijuana offenses” (Jorgensen) and he also describes how “relationships police have with minority communities have been fractured in recent years due to racial disparities in enforcement and use of force, the consequences of which certainly hinder the system from doing its job effectively” (Jergensen). Jorgensen provides key information as to why the legalization of marijuana would improve racial bias and potentially improve relations between minority groups and the police. The last half of this article includes a lot of information that makes this source valuable for future research and my paper.

Salguero, Jennifer. "The Voices of cannabis in Houston." *Cannabis World Journals*, 30 Nov.

2022, p. 5. *Gale General OneFile*,

[link.gale.com/apps/doc/A734692702/ITOF?u=txshracd2531&sid=bookmark-ITOF&xid=87b410f4](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A734692702/ITOF?u=txshracd2531&sid=bookmark-ITOF&xid=87b410f4).

In the article "The Voices of cannabis in Houston" the author, Jennifer Salguero, details instances of cannabis-related reforms in Texas and also what cannabis-related reform would look like on a federal level. Salguero describes how cannabis-related reform in Texas isn't united enough and that politicians are holding back the public by not accurately representing their views. Salguero states that if any real change is going to be made politicians on both the state and federal levels are going to need to make progress toward decriminalizing and cannabis liberation. The author's message is also directed towards President Joe Biden and Governor Greg Abbott, who the author feels are both not doing enough to help with the reform. Salguero provides interesting information on how certain Texas citizens feel about cannabis-related reform when she states “San Marcos, Denton, Elgin, Killeen, and Harker Heights voted in favor of reducing criminal penalties for possession of minimal amounts of cannabis” (Salguero). This information

showcases that at least some Texas citizens are tired of current cannabis laws and want reform but they are not receiving that. This source can be valuable because it somewhat addresses questions five and eight on my list of eight questions about the topic.

Serrano, Alfonso. “Weed All About It: The Origins of the Word 'Marijuana'.” *America Aljazeera*, Aljazeera America, 14 Dec. 2013,  
<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/12/14/weed-all-about-ittheoriginsofthewordamarijuanaaintheus.html>.

Throughout the article “Weed all about it: The origins of the word ‘marijuana’”, Alfonso Serrano details the problematic history of the term marijuana and how it has impacted certain groups of people. Serrano reveals how the first anti-cannabis laws were implemented to marginalize new migrants in the Southwest due to rising anti-immigration fears and the laws were aimed at the term “marijuana”. At the time the media helped fuel the fire by associating marijuana use with jazz musicians, black people, and prostitutes. In order to get their bills passed, many politicians played up the fears of those who lived in areas with large immigrant populations. This led to the 1937 Marijuana Tax Act and increased policing in lower income areas. In the article Serrano includes some important details about the legislative and overall history of marijuana and its impact on certain groups of people. Serrano describes this when he states “this bigotry played a key role in instituting the first marijuana laws — aimed at placing social controls on the immigrant population” and “where the media began associating cannabis use with jazz musicians, blacks and prostitutes” (Serrano). The term marijuana and certain laws associated with it clearly have certain problematic implications that have negatively impacted minority groups. This article has some value because it offers insight on the legislative history which I could use in my paper.

Sullum, Jacob. "BIDEN'S 'MARIJUANA REFORM' LEAVES PROHIBITION

UNTOUCHED." *Reason*, Jan. 2023, p. 6. *Gale General OneFile*,

[link.gale.com/apps/doc/A738318014/ITOF?u=txshracd2531&sid=bookmark-ITOF&xid=d8631248](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A738318014/ITOF?u=txshracd2531&sid=bookmark-ITOF&xid=d8631248).

In the article "BIDEN'S 'MARIJUANA REFORM' LEAVES PROHIBITION UNTOUCHED", Jacob Sullum describes the efforts at marijuana reform at the federal level especially from President Joe Biden. Sullum states that President Biden issued a mass pardon for low-level marijuana offenders and initiated a review of the drug's regulatory status. The pardon only applies to a small minority, but acts as a small step in the right direction. However, according to Sullum, the gesture did not even accomplish that much in the grand scheme of things and seemed disingenuous. Biden still continues to support the federal ban on marijuana and marijuana is still treated as a Schedule 1 drug despite being less dangerous. This article contains a few key details that are relevant to my research and final paper. The article offers some insight on why marijuana reform on the federal level is so lackluster. Sullum describes this when he states "The most Biden is willing to offer them is his rhetorical support for decriminalizing cannabis consumption—a policy that was on the cutting edge of marijuana reform in the 1970s" (Sullum). It seems that on the federal level marijuana reform and legalization is not a big issue that many are concerned about. There is value in this article as it describes some actions taken to reform marijuana classification and the impact of those actions.