Name: AP 11

Stravino

**Classical, Rogerian, and Toulmin Argument Packet**

**Toulmin**: Identify the claim, data, and warrant for each argument.

1. I am now convinced that we are perilously close to the end of civilization. William Shatner sold his kidney stone on EBay for $25,000.

Claim:

Data:

Warrant:

1. Ronald Reagan’s likeness should be chiseled onto Mt. Rushmore, alongside Washington, Jefferson Lincoln and Roosevelt. Polls show Americans rank him with John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln as one of the greatest presidents of all time.

Claim:

Data:

Warrant:

1. How do you know WWE wrestling is fake? I’ll tell you how. You never see the results printed in the Sports section of the newspaper.

Claim:

Data:

Warrant:

1. Gay couples should not be allowed to marry legally. The Bible says “Adam and Eve” not “Adam and Steve.”

Claim:

Data:

Warrant:

**Classical**: Annotate, identifying the six components of the Classical Argument in this student essay.

Marijuana Addiction

“June 2013, Hwy 180 & Alta, Sanger, Vehicle Pursuit/ Shots Fired- Deputies pursue four subjects in truck who were apparently firing handgun in area of Dunlap. Speeds reach 80mph during which time suspects toss sawed-off shotgun. Subjects connected to marijuana grow in area. Two arrested” (Marijuana Incidents 1). Marijuana affects the lives of everyone whether it’s the grower, distributor, user, and even an innocent bystander. These crimes are real and are happening right now, devastating the lives of people in its path. For the users at home asking, how does this affect me? The answer is, it does, but it takes shape in a different form than high-speed chases and shootouts. Although it may lead to ones arrest if you are not meticulous. Over the years people have become more aware of marijuana -what it is and how it affects an individual user- due to the fact that there have been recreational marijuana legalizations in Colorado and the state of Washington. This has also opened up room for further research to unravel the mystery that is contained inside the cannabis leaf. With any illicit drug surfaces the nature of its addictiveness. Is marijuana addicting? Yes, marijuana is an addictive substance that leads to psychological disorders and it is imperative that the public audience becomes aware about this situation. Three factors play a role in this addiction. Marijuana’s potency has an integral role in this and will be further explored. The second factor may be the accessibility of the product, as it is becoming increasingly easier to obtain the drug. The third factor are the withdrawal symptoms experienced.

Before we delve into the exploration of the issue presented in this paper we must acknowledge a few key words to ensure there are no discrepancies with the use of those words. “The Oxford English Dictionary (pp. 24-25) traces the term **addiction** to Roman law, under which **addiction** was a "formal giving over by sentence of court; hence, a dedication of person to a master" (Kranzler 1). It is this relinquishment of control by the user to a master, in this case, marijuana, that has set the mark for many definitions of the word. Although, the term addiction is not a term that is used often in the medical world, the terms dependence and abuse are. Abuse is the constant use of a substance far exceeding the body’s capabilities of processing it thus damaging certain functions. Dependence is classified as being far worse than abuse and is the constant use meeting 2-3 certain criteria that are written out in the DSM-IV (Losowsky 1). These criteria include tolerance, withdrawal, wanting or trying to unsuccessfully cut down on use and spending a considerable amount of time obtaining the substance. Research has shown that many people fall under the two latter criteria (Losowsky 1). Now that these terms are explicitly defined and that there are no discrepancies, the exploration begins.

Marijuana hasn’t always been as potent as it is today. It is said that the potency of marijuana has increased 10-, 20, even 30-fold since the 1970s. What an astonishing number! Potency refers to the concentration, or amount, of THC, tetrahydrocannabinol, in the marijuana bud. This potency may has been as low as 0.5% in the 1970s but that concentration is so low that it may have not even triggered any psychoactivity. However, this would have made it highly unpopular since it this low potency created no effect. This was not the case since it was a very popular drug in that era. A test on the potency of marijuana was conducted in 1973 and it was found that the average THC content was about 1.62%. Just two years later, the same test was conducted and it was estimated that the THC content ranged from 2-5% with some samples of marijuana skyrocketing to 14% in that era. Just two years after that and there already is a dramatic increase of the THC content. After the 1980s, with various products in the market this number has dramatically increased (Marijuana Potency 1). And this number will keep on rising to even higher numbers especially with national talk about legalizing marijuana.

Colorado and Washington have set the mark for legalizing marijuana that other states will soon surely follow. This will create even easier access of the product for the public. Children will start using sooner as a result of the accessibility of the marijuana product. Children are impressionable, the sooner they start to use, the more negatively marijuana affects them. With the young age and the increasing potency of marijuana, addiction will surely arise in a much faster, and more extreme manner. A massive national research was conducted that tested the possible relationship of state-level legalization of marijuana and marijuana use and dependence. The results the conclusion yielded to were that there exists a correlation between the two variables. Participants who lived in the state that legalized medical marijuana used the substance frequently, and were more dependent on the substance, than did the users who lived in certain states where any form marijuana was not tolerated (Cerda 1).

With addiction, or dependence, there are certain withdrawal symptoms that accompany it. Some substances withdrawal symptoms may lead to the person’s death if the withdrawal isn’t addressed and properly monitored. As for marijuana, certain withdrawal symptoms include, but are not limited to, irritability, mood swings, cravings, insomnia, anxiety, depression, and even poor appetite. These same withdrawal symptoms are in concordance with the withdrawal symptoms of other, more potent addictive drugs such as heroin or cocaine. Another research was conducted that tested the neural effects of positive and negative incentives during marijuana withdrawal. “These findings suggest that although marijuana users have greater reward sensitivity and less harm avoidance than controls, that attenuated amygdala response, an area that underlies fear and avoidance, was present in marijuana users with greater marijuana withdrawal symptoms” (Filbey 1). These findings also point marijuana withdrawal to the same models of drug addiction in, again, heroin and cocaine.

But of course, despite hard facts and scientific research there is a substantial portion of the population that do not seem to agree. Certain users, and other critics, might seem to disagree with the addictive potential marijuana contains. Some say that it isn’t addiction at all that arises from constant use but purely habituation, a form of psychological reinforcement. Then they proceed to define habituation and say that habit can be easily fixed and is less harmful than addiction itself. Another counterargument that may be utilized is the fact that the THC potency in a single bud of marijuana is not high enough to cause any sort of addiction. The person would have to consume, or inhale, a substantial amount of the substance in one sitting and one is physically incapable of doing so. A third argument that counteracts the addictive potential of marijuana is that the substance creates no physical change in the body. Alcohol physically changes the receptors in the body thus causing the major alcohol addiction many people struggle with today. Marijuana does not physically alter the body therefore there is no physical need, or addiction in this case, for the substance.

In light of recent, countless studies being done today more and more is being discovered about the nature of the cannabis plant. At first, it was said there were no addictive properties contained inside the leaf and public opinion backed this statement up. Generation after generation children and adults grew up to believe that yes, marijuana is illegal therefore it is bad, but that it was not at all addictive. Times have changed since then. Slowly, marijuana is becoming legalized. Colorado and Washington have set the mark for this. As a direct result, the substance is more accessible to adolescents at an earlier age which causes the likelihood of addiction to rise even more. The potency isn’t the same as it once was 30-40 years ago either. It has risen ten to fourteen percent more than its initial one to three percent. What this research is revealing to us, and what the public must be aware of is that, yes marijuana is an addictive substance. There are real, physical withdrawal symptoms observed in marijuana users who abruptly stop its use. Legalizing marijuana along with the ever increasing potency of the substance only feeds the addiction.

**Rogerian**: Annotate, identifying the six components of the Rogerian Argument in this student essay.

Helmets: Life or Liberty?

Snow boarding and snow skiing are two of the most enjoyed recreational sports in the world today. They give a unique sense of freedom and satisfaction that is unlike any other sport can offer. Rob Reichenfeld remarked after his first lesson, “When you’re onto a good thing you stick with it, and like millions around the world I had discovered something undefinably special” (2). The freedom to carve down an entire mountain as fast or as slowly as desired, to drop off a twenty-foot cliff into five feet of fluff, to weave a line through a patch of technical trees, or to float down a steep face with bottomless powder are just a few reasons so many people are determined to make it to the mountains every year in search of a supreme rush. Snow sports provide an outlet for people to express themselves in unconventional ways by taking risks they normally would not take.

Snow sports are becoming more popular than ever before. They are prevalent in movies such as Extreme Days, Out Cold, several James Bond films, and Aspen Extreme, just to name a few. Now we see the X Games on television and snow sports in the Olympics. And the commercial market has taken full advantage of the extreme side of these sports as well. Mountain Dew has created an entire marketing scheme based solely on extreme sports, with snowboarding being a large part. Not only are snow sports becoming exceeding popular in the media, more and more newcomers are picking up a board or a set of skis every day of the winter season. Along with all of this new popularity and thousands of new partakers in these sports, head injuries are becoming an increasing element of the equation. Although the percentage of head injuries due to snow sports is fairly low, about 0.3—6.5 skiers or snowboarders per thousand a day (“Heads you win?…”), a lot of people are affected when you consider how many thousands of people might be skiing or snowboarding in the entire U.S. on any given day. These numbers have raised a question of some magnitude: should ski resorts intrude on their guests’ individual liberties by implementing helmet rules?

Helmets do have several distinct drawbacks, despite their many benefits. Though opinions are starting to change, helmets are sometimes viewed as uncool or “nerdy”. These ideas are similar to those people used to have about motorcycle helmets, car seat belts, bicycle helmets, and skating elbow- and kneepads. Initially, it seems, any form of safety equipment gets a bad rap, especially from a young crowd that has no real concern for bodily harm.

A more credible drawback to wearing helmets that has been presented is vision impairment, along with the lack of comfort helmets have been known to cause in the past. “I wore one when I raced downhill, and it restricted visibility. It has to do with how comfortable I feel and having a feel for the mountain with peripheral vision. Helmets are constricting,” argues former world champion snowboarder Amy Howat (Johnston). It seems that many skiers and riders feel the same way that Amy does about helmets. Many snowboarders contend that they will not wear a helmet because they need to be able to hear the sound their board is making on the snow in order to help adjust their speed and to feel comfortable on their boards.

Although these arguments do bear some merit, migh many serious head injuries be avoided at the expense of some of these comforts? As a former Park City Mountain Resort lift operator during the 1999-2000 season, I had the chance to witness firsthand a couple of these injuries. One, coincidentally, was very inexperienced snowboards who was trying to push his limits and succeeded in doing so. He was venturing down a black mogul run that was well beyond his riding ability. Towards the top of the run he lost control of his board and ran head-on into a tree that was located on the side of the slope. I happened to be merging into the bottom half of the same run when he came cartwheeling to a halt directly in front of me. It was a very gruesome sight to behold; there were actually pieces of his brain in the snow around his head. The young snowboarder is now a complete vegetable due to brain damage sustained in this accident.

Though they do account for a large number of mountain accidents, novice boarders and skiers are not the only people who fall victim to these brutal head injuries. Advanced to expert skiers and boarders encounter head injury as a result of trying to push the envelope to progress in these sports or just by random screw-ups. In another case, a very experienced skier, an instructor at a neighboring mountain, was visiting Park City Mountain Resort for the day. Somehow he lost control on a blue run, which was well below his skiing ability, and went over a ridge where he hit a tree. His body was found the next day by a couple of kids who accidentally went off the same ridge. This example shows that anyone, no matter what level skiing or boarding experience they have, can lose control on any run regardless of the run’s difficulty level.

The concept of helmets for the purpose of resort skiing and boarding is increasingly gaining popularity. Helmets are beginning to lose the “nerdy” reputation they once had. The Snow Sports Industries Association of America reported that in the winter of 1996-97, sales of snow sports helmets tripled from 80, 537 helmets to an astonishing 242,632 helmets (Johnston). This increase has resulted for several reasons. People are starting to realize the inherent risk involved in these sports. Many, mainly experienced skiers and riders have had the unfortunate opportunity of witnessing the consequences of not wearing appropriate head gear on the mountain and have thus been motivated to start wearing it. Helmets are also becoming more stylish than before. Every year companies like Boeri and ProTec are introducing more attractive and comfortable helmet designs, along with the likes of well-known and well-respected ski and snowboard manufacturers such as K2 and Burton.

It has been argued that helmets can be very cumbersome, uncomfortable, and restrictive to visibility, when in fact, quite the opposite is becoming the case. While it is true that a few years ago helmets were very bulky and inhibiting, today’s helmet designs are quite sleek-fitting and lightweight, while visibility is restricted no more than by normal goggles. Helmets are more correctly fitted to the shape of the rider’s head, offering more comfort, and they provide an extra barrier of protection from those frigid winter days, while at the same time including closable ventilation for spring blue bird days.

The benefits of wearing head protection while resort skiing or snowboarding greatly outweigh the disadvantages, so such protective headgear should be required by all ski resorts. With the improvements being made in the comfort, stylishness, and effectiveness of helmets in the industry, there are no excuses left for skiers or boarders not to be wearing them. These types of resort rules could save countless lives as well as possibly saving innumerable tax dollars that are spend on the medical costs of people who receive brain damage as result of snow sport-induced head trauma. Such rules would also serve to lower lift ticket prices, as less money would be spent by resorts to defend against lawsuits brought on by head trauma victims. It would be to the benefit of everyone in the snow sports community if such regulations were to be put into place. I hope that they will indeed be applied in the near future, further insuring many more years of safe and exhilarating snow sporting.