There are a lot of debates when it comes to drug and narcotic use in the United states, but I am here to talk about one specific drug that has the potential to make the United Sates something better than it already is, marijuana. I am not going to discuss how the drug should be decriminalized, I will elaborate why this drug should be legalized and federally approved. There are a few major topics that could make people really understand that marijuana is not all bad when it can make people who are ill to be healthier, physically and mentally even letting the people express their inner abilities with crime rates going way down. Let us ask ourselves who are the big components that have a huge influence on our perspective on this certain topic. The media and the government.

 Marijuana consumption/distribution is a non-violent crime that results in the imprisonment of lots of lower/middle class citizens, which results in these individuals having a serious criminal record for non-violent crime. This results in these individuals struggling to obtain/maintain jobs and be productive in society (to better themselves), which could lead to them performing more serious criminal activity. Had these individuals not been criminalized in the first place, there would be no need to waste money on the prison industrial complex to imprison these people and inhibit their role in society. Degrading someones life for consumption of marijuana makes no sense to me when it can be joked about over social media. Deviance, an assumption that people who are involved in non-cultural activity are viewed as criminals or outsiders. I can understand why people do such a thing because it is a reminder of what is right and wrong. In all, police officers follow the orders of the law in all ways but why be arrested for something that still occurs behind bars.

Our economy in the U.S is not what we had planned for I'm assuming, but being the super nation you have to be able to give and sometimes not receive. Our medical system is one of the best, and yes there is a reason for that but yet we are so against a drug that could open many new avenues, money wise. Many more job opportunities would be available and also marijuana can be an alternative to prescription drugs. Making the number one source of robbery be paused because insurance could be tarnished or not entail the care necessary for the patient. When he/her could easily pay a very reasonable price for a bag of weed and believe it or not that is probably the main reason why it isn't even legal yet. weed is not legal, it is affordable, chemotherapy is not.

Lastly, and most importantly, it helps your inner self. Marijuana can be used for medical and recreational uses and either way, the negative outcomes are minimal. Artists that take part in using marijuana use the inspiration sometimes as a leeway to something beautiful. I do not see marijuana as something to be afraid of or look down upon to someone who does it because it all has to do with the stereotype we've put them into. We are afraid of the idea of it, not the actual herb. Just because it is legal does not mean that every single person has to do it, just like alcohol, its legal but not everyone drinks it.

In conclusion, I have understood the pros and the cons when it comes to legalizing marijuana, but I'm many cases I have seen nothing but pros. Yes we have states that legalized and decriminalized it, but having it legal across the border can keep peoples minds at ease. And have police officers jobs less demeaning to potentially ruin someones life when the same drugs or even worse are floating around prison facilities like its nothing. So my question lands at why should something so innocent with minimum health flaws should be punished in such a cruel manner? Maybe the biggest influences on us should step back reevaluate and come to us with facts.

"Medical Marijuana." *Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*, edited by Gale, 3rd edition, 2013. *Credo Reference*, https://libdb.dccc.edu/login?url=http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/galegel/medical\_marijuana/0?institutionId=5109. Accessed 30 Nov 2017.

"Deviance." *World of Sociology, Gale*, edited by Joseph M. Palmisano, Gale, 1st edition, 2001. *Credo Reference*, https://libdb.dccc.edu/login?url=http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/worldsocs/deviance/0?institutionId=5109. Accessed 30 Nov 2017.