

Taxing the Green

1
2 The legalization of marijuana in Oregon has brought a new tax to the table for
3 those who wish to use it for recreational purposes. According to the letter “Statement in
4 Support of Oregon’s Measure 91” from Law Enforcement it makes the following
5 statement:

6 “Treating marijuana as a crime has failed. Arresting and citing thousands of
7 people in Oregon and elsewhere for marijuana-related crimes is a distraction to law
8 enforcement and a misuse of taxpayer resources. The time and money spent should go
9 to make our communities safer. Police resources should be focused on violent
10 criminals, thieves and criminal cartels.” (1)

11 So we now know that our own Law Enforcement is more than happy to have
12 purged the issue of illegal marijuana and also agree that taxes coming from the sale of
13 plant should go to making our communities safer. Measure 91 has opened the doors to
14 this process.

15 As of July 1, 2014, every recreational smoker will pay a state tax as well as a city
16 tax for marijuana. The city of Milwaukie will have a 10% recreational tax upon the sale
17 of the plant come next summer. (3) According to City of Milwaukie Ordinance No. 2083,
18 Chapter 5.55.010 states, “The purpose is to impose a tax upon the retail sale of
19 marijuana, medical marijuana, and marijuana-infused products.” (2) Yet some cities
20 such as Fairview are looking at a 40% spike tax to make it loud and clear that the
21 recreational plant will be unwelcomed in its city limits.

1 Fairview however, should open up their eyes and look at all the good that could
2 come from this new tax. The sale of marijuana will be opening up more jobs and cutting
3 down on unemployment. There is also the fact that the taxes that come from the
4 purchase will go to our schools, roads and strengthening our communities. As well as
5 making them a better place to live. Law enforcement will also get a break from writing
6 non-sense citations and will be able to better concentrate on the real problems on our
7 streets today. The greater outcome should be looked at with a more open mind.
8 Fairview should be asking, what good could come out of this?

9 Crime rate data shows that Fairview is only 19% safer than other cities in the
10 United States. With a population of 9,141 residences, Fairview has 13 violent crimes
11 and 310 property crimes coming out of the city annually. (4) There has to be room for
12 improvement. That is where the marijuana tax could possibly come into play for them.
13 They should be strengthening their law enforcement or possibly using the tax to bring
14 more safety cameras and have them installed properly where needed. Instead they
15 choose to raise a much higher tax then those around them. With the higher tax
16 distributors will not want to do business within their city limits. Therefore, they will not be
17 seeing an increase in their budget to help keep their fellow neighborhoods safe and
18 secure.

19 My advice to Fairview is to "light up". Follow Milwaukie or one of the many other
20 surrounding cities leads and embrace this new tax. So much good could come out of
21 something so simple if you only allow it time to blossom. Results may not show instantly
22 but, as they say, Milwaukie might as well just sit back and smoke a bowl.

Works Cited

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2 (1) Matt Ferner, "Oregon Marijuana Legalization Gets Boost From Cops",
3 [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/29/oregon-marijuana-legalization-](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/29/oregon-marijuana-legalization-cops_n_6071778.html)
4 [cops_n_6071778.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/29/oregon-marijuana-legalization-cops_n_6071778.html) , Huffington Post, October 29, 2014

5 - Law Enforcement, "RE: Statement in support of Oregon's Measure 91" October 29,
6 2014

7 (2) Eric Apalategui, "40 percent tax on marijuana sales? Fairview hopes to dissuade
8 sellers after Oregon makes cannabis legal",
9 http://www.oregonlive.com/gresham/index.ssf/2014/11/40_percent_tax_on_marijuana_s
10 [a.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/gresham/index.ssf/2014/11/40_percent_tax_on_marijuana_s) , Oregon Live, November 7, 2014

11 (3) City of Milwaukie, "Ordinance No. 2083"
12 <http://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/or2083.pdf> ,
13 September 2, 2014

14 (4) "Crime Rates for Fairview, Oregon",
15 <http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/or/fairview/crime/>

Work Sample Evaluation

Subject Area: Composition 1

Task Title: Tracking Your Taxes

Student Work Sample Title: Taxing the Green

The document was scored using the *CCR Task Bank Rubric*. The final scores are indicated in the following chart.

Scoring Criteria	Insufficient Evidence	Developing	Progressing	Accomplished	Exceeds
Research and Investigation			X		
Ideas and Content			X		
Reading and Analysis		X			
Communication			X		
Organization			X		
Accuracy			X		

Annotations: The following evidence from the work sample and the reviewer’s comments support the scores above. Page and line numbers refer to the original work sample.

Scoring Criteria	Page #	Line #	Commentary about the work sample
Research and Investigation: <i>Locating resources independently and/or identifying information within provided texts</i>	3		The work sample includes four reliable sources, indicating that the student conducted some research.
	1	10, 17, 19	The student incorporates in-text citations into the paper. Though it is not perfectly done, at least there is an attempt to cite others’ work.
Ideas and Content: <i>Presenting a thesis and understanding concepts</i>	1	2-14	The student provides a vague thesis that is somewhat supported throughout the essay.
	1	11-13	The student makes claims here that cannot be drawn from the opinions that are quoted in the previous paragraph.
Reading and Analysis: <i>Evaluating sources and selecting evidence to support the central idea</i>	1-2	19-8	The student builds a questionable argument against Fairview’s approach to the marijuana tax based on the premise that a 40% tax increase will not produce revenue that will make improvements for the city (page 2, lines 9-18).
	1	19-21	The student does not cite actual reasons (counterclaims) for the city’s desire to raise taxes to high levels.
	2	10-12	Crime statistics could be a compelling argument, but they are weakly used.
Communication: <i>Using subject-appropriate language and considering audience</i>	1-2		The tone of the work sample is predominantly correct and formal.
	2	19-22	The author breaks with the overall tone of the paper in the final paragraph by using slang and an informal tone.
Organization: <i>Structuring main ideas and supporting information</i>	1	6-10	The paper is well-structured throughout and the student uses main ideas and relevant supporting details; however, the requirements of the assignment are not met, and more supporting details are needed.
	1	15-21	See above.
	2	9-18	See above.
Accuracy: <i>Attending to detail, grammar, spelling, conventions, citations, and formatting</i>	1; 2	11; 19	The student uses the 1st person (“we,” and “my advice”).
	3		The Works Cited list is incorrectly formatted.