

English 1B Semester Project

You are to write an essay using proper essay form, following the 6 + 1 Trait ideals. Although you should do your best writing in all areas, for the first semester, you will be evaluated primarily upon Ideas, Organization, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. Although there is no specific length requirement, you must complete the idea of the assignment. That should require at least 500 words, and probably will take more to do a really good job.

If the paper is not of sufficient length for the teacher to evaluate your writing, it will not be scored!

Remember: This essay evaluates your writing; if your essay is primarily a collection of quotes of the facts provided to you, then you have not met the requirements of the assignment.

Assignment Topic

You are to support an opinion related to the use of tobacco by teens in America. On the next page of this unit, you will find supporting facts to use in forming your argument. You will find more facts there than you really need. Part of your assessment will be your ability to pick out the supporting facts you need and disregard the ones you don't need. Although the sources for your facts are identified for you, you are not required to use any research paper-type documentation for this assignment.

Information and Facts for Diagnostic Essay

You will find the following facts useful in writing your essay. The sources for all information are identified.

From **The American Heart Association**

<http://www.americanheart.org>

In the United States, an estimated 25.5 million men (24.1 percent) and 21.5 million women (19.2 percent) are smokers. These people are at higher risk of heart attack and stroke. The latest estimates for persons age 18 and older show...*

- Among non-Hispanic whites, 24.3 percent of men and 21.2 percent of women smoke (2002).
- Among non-Hispanic blacks, 25.5 percent of men and 18.3 percent of women smoke.
- Among Hispanics, 22.1 percent of men and 10.3 percent of women smoke.
- Among Asians (only), 17.5 percent of men and 6.5 percent of women smoke.
- Among American Indians/Alaska Natives, 42.0 percent of men and 37.3 percent of women smoke.

- Studies show that smoking prevalence is higher among those with 9-11 years of education (35.4 percent) compared with those with more than 16 years of education (11.6 percent). It's highest among persons living below the poverty level (33.3 percent).

*National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), 2003, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

From **The American Lung Association**

<http://www.lungusa.org>

- Cigarette smoking during childhood and adolescence produces significant health problems among young people, including cough and phlegm production, an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness, an unfavorable lipid profile and potential retardation in the rate of lung growth and the level of maximum lung function. An estimated 440,000 Americans die each year from diseases caused by smoking.
- Each day, nearly 6,000 children under 18 years of age start smoking; of these, nearly 2,000 will become regular smokers. That is almost 800,000 annually.
- It is estimated that at least 4.5 million U.S. adolescents are cigarette smokers.
- Approximately 90 percent of smokers begin smoking before the age of 21.
- If current tobacco use patterns persist, an estimated 6.4 million children will die prematurely from a smoking-related disease.
- According to a 2001 national survey of high school students, the overall prevalence of current cigarette use was 28 percent.
- Nearly 20 percent of 12th graders, 12 percent of 10th graders and 5.5 percent of 8th graders smoke cigarettes daily.
- Adolescents who smoke regularly can have just as hard a time quitting as long-time smokers.
- Of adolescents who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, most of them report that they would like to quit, but are not able to do so.
- Cigarette advertisements tend to emphasize youthful vigor, sexual attraction and independence themes, which appeal to teenagers and young adults struggling with these issues.
- Tobacco use in adolescence is associated with a range of health-compromising behaviors, including being involved in fights, carrying weapons, engaging in high-risk sexual behavior and using alcohol and other drugs.

From the **World Health Organization**

<http://www.who.int/about/en/>

- Among young teens (aged 13 to 15), about one in five smokes worldwide.
- Between 80,000 and 100,000 children worldwide start smoking every day - roughly half of whom live in Asia.
- Evidence shows that around 50% of those who start smoking in adolescent years go on to smoke for 15 to 20 years.

- Peer-reviewed studies show teenagers are heavily influenced by tobacco advertising.
- About a quarter of youth alive in the Western Pacific Region will die from smoking.

From *The Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Caldwell

- There is evidence that the tendency to become addicted to nicotine varies from person to person and is based upon the person's inherited biological characteristics.
- One of the primary reasons teens begin smoking is in imitation of another smoking teen whom they admire.
- Once they leave their teen years, almost all individuals try to quit smoking, but many do not succeed.