

English Unit 4: Analysing Argument

Outcome 2 – Print text

Instructions

For this Outcome, you are required to analyse the use of argument(s) and language to persuade an intended audience to share the point of view expressed in a persuasive text.

- Read the background information on this page and the material on pages 2, 3 and 4, and write an analytical response to the task below.
- For the purposes of this task, the term 'language' refers to written and spoken language, and 'visuals' refers to images and graphics.

Task

Write an analysis of the ways in which argument(s), written and spoken language, and visuals are used in the material on pages 2, 3 and 4 to try to persuade the intended audience to share the point of view presented.

Background information

The Arizona Republic is an American daily newspaper published in Phoenix, Arizona (a US state). Circulated throughout Arizona, it is the state's largest newspaper with a daily circulation of 109,000. Its content is also available online at [azcentral.com](https://www.azcentral.com), which is the most visited local site in Arizona.

On October 3, 2023, *The Arizona Republic* published an opinion piece titled 'Vaping is unhealthy but banning it in Arizona could hurt teens more.' The comment was a contribution to the debate being conducted within the United States on how best to regulate vaping.

The author, Peter Clark, is a journalist who contributes to several US publications, and has a special interest in youth issues.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Vaping is unhealthy, but banning it in Arizona could hurt teens more

Opinion: Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes and others say a vaping ban could keep more teens from smoking. Here's why they're wrong.

Peter Clark
opinion contributor

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The law of unintended consequences makes e-cigarette bans a bad idea.

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes in September joined 32 other AGs in calling for the Federal Drug Administration [the US body that protects public health by regulating many medical and consumer products – Echo editor] to impose stronger regulations shielding teens from the dangers of vaping.

The coalition recommended a ban on non-tobacco flavoured e-cigarettes, believing the use entices adolescents to pick up the habit.

Reducing youth vaping is a laudable goal. Yet, however noble the AGs' intentions, prohibiting flavoured e-cigarettes will only harm Arizona teens.



**Vaping is unhealthy,
but better than cigs**

Vaping is an unhealthy habit for adolescents to adopt. But it's a positive alternative to combustible cigarettes.

That's because vaping exposes users to far fewer toxic chemicals, as recent studies of the biomarkers of exposure reveal.

Risk of heart attack and stroke among people who vape compared to those who smoke is also reduced. While the chemicals in tobacco smoke narrow the arteries, researchers have found that the blood vessels of smokers who switch to vaping expand, decreasing the risk of cardiovascular conditions.

Public Health England finds that e-cigarettes are 95% safer than conventional cigarettes. While vaping may still be bad for you, the truth is it's a promising harm reduction option for people who would smoke anyway.

By eliminating certain flavours or reducing nicotine levels to make e-cigarettes "less addictive," lawmakers might inadvertently drive addicted teens to smoke traditional cigarettes instead.

A ban could push teens to worse choices

That's simply a worse health outcome. And there's evidence suggests this is exactly what would happen.

After San Francisco implemented a ban of flavoured e-cigarettes in 2018, the youth smoking rate nearly doubled, a study by Yale School of Public Health suggests.

In Arizona youth smoking is currently on the decline, but these recommendations could reverse that progress.

Policymakers in some states have cautioned that black markets may emerge if flavoured e-cigarettes are banned.

Illicit markets have no age restrictions, making bootleg vape pens accessible to minors.

Most teens don't vape for the flavour

A survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found

that 80% of participants cited reasons other than the flavours for vaping, instead listing the feeling of relaxation as a primary factor.

A nicotine buzz temporarily alleviates the negative emotions that are increasingly prevalent in an America ravaged by depression and mental health problems.

In 2021, nearly 1 in 5 of teens reported contemplating suicide, and more than 1 in 3 Arizona high schoolers students self-reported being in poor mental health post-pandemic. It is unsurprising, then, that 43.4% of teen vapers do so to relieve “anxiety, stress, or depression.”

Vaping is a symptom of a more serious issue impacting Arizona teens. By adopting regulations to combat vaping, lawmakers neglect the real problems facing American youth today.

Bans are well-meaning but misguided

Mayes’ initiative is well-meaning but misguided.

While it may seem rational to target e-cigarettes that come in tantalizing flavours, these measures place teens in more danger. Whether it’s driving kids to smoke cigarettes or causing parents and public officials to overlook teen mental health, this proposal will harm those it aims to protect.

Of all the issues facing teens, vaping is the least of our worries.

Peter Clark is a contributor with Young Voices, a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping young professionals writing cultural and policy commentary.

The original text can be accessed at <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2023/10/03/vaping-ban-drive-teens-smoke-harmful-cigarettes/71036988007/>