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### Argumentative Research Workbook

During my undergrad years of tutoring Composition, I always used my own writing manuals. While teaching this past fall semester, I often resorted to books not required by MSU for the class. As I referred little to the required texts, neither did my students, thus creating a barrage of questions days before any due date. All of their queries could have been answered with their books. *Why didn't they use them?* I kept asking myself. *They paid good money for that stuff. All the answers are there, if they'd just look.*

Then the epiphany: I was not looking at the required textbooks, either. What good is it to rebuke them for not applying sources their instructor rarely consulted?

So, for this spring semester, I forced myself to go through my required texts and pull out the best information. Not yet satisfied, I returned to my own manuals; each contained explanations I felt the students could use. For two weeks, I picked through all the resources and readers to create an online workbook: a compilation of my thoughts and sources with the course's texts.

Through its journal prompts, readings, grammar exercises, and research assignments, the workbook takes the class through each period of the argumentative research paper unit. All due dates related to the paper are posted, as well as research questions, drafting tips, citation helps, and revision checks. As this was the workbook's first trial, I expected some snafus to be found in my work, or conflicts with the students about the extra work. Thankfully, problems remained at a minimum. Though the workbook will constantly change over semester through each class' feedback and personal brainstorms of my own, it will remain a vital resource for my classroom.

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The following pages contain the three sample papers my students read  
for their workbook exercises.

**Sample 1 for Workbook****Cigarette Ban from Minnesota Bars and Restaurants**

Cigarettes are the plaques of the economy. It is the leading cause of death among men and women. Cigarettes can cause a wide variety of illnesses from cancers to heart defects. Even secondhand smoking can be deadly. Most Americans are exposed to secondhand smoke on a daily basis, especially in bars and restaurants. Cigarettes contain more than 4,000 poisonous chemicals. These chemicals run through people's work places and eventually through their loved ones. It is a disease that slowly kills and a growing epidemic for many decades. It is time to put a stop to it, before one day the person infected maybe your love one. All cigarettes should be banned from bars and restaurants in Minnesota because its' a health hazard.

Cigarettes are contain with some of the most dangerous and hazardous chemicals on the face of this earth. What is in a cigarette? Most people haven't had a clue to what's in their cigarettes. A cigarette consist of some the most deadly and unimaginable chemicals in the world. Cigarettes contain over 4,000 chemicals that are deadly to mankind such as nicotine, acetone, ammonia, tar, benzene, cadmium, and carbon monoxide. Nicotine is the main ingredient in cigarettes. Nicotine is absorbed into the blood and it increases your heart rate and blood pressure. Ammonia is put in a cigarette because it speeds up the intake of nicotine. Benzene is known to cause cancer such as lung cancer. Cadmium is used in batteries and is found in cars batteries; however, if combine with other chemicals it can be fatal to a person. Cadmium and other chemicals such as benzene have been found to cause lung cancer and kidney damages. The mostly commonly known is carbon monoxide; it is an odorless and colorless chemical. A lot of intake of carbon monoxide can be fatal because it prevents the blood from carrying oxygen

around through the body (Kennard). This has been an on going argument of why cigarettes should be banned for the safety of innocent bystanders.

On the other hand, many cigarette smokers have brought up the point about using cigarette filters. A cigarette filter may prevent some chemicals from getting into a person's system. It prevents a lower level of chemicals intake such as tar and nicotine and it lowers the level of smoke while smoking ("Study").

However, Danny Penman (the author) stated in an article that recent research has been done on Philip Morris, the biggest cigarette marketing company and has shown that based on facts they knew filter were defective. With its fallout in court during the year 2002 tobacco lawsuit, the Philip Morris Company stated, "We do not believe that the filters pose any additional health risk to smokers. We do not think the evidence suggests that fibres from the filters will penetrate the lungs. It is not our intention to comment further" (Penman). But researcher John Pauly of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York disagrees, saying that they knew the filters were not working properly. He said to News Scientist, "Analysis of documents released during legal cases show the filters also can send a shower of cellulose acetate fibers and carbon particles into the lungs of smokers" (Penman). The body is unable to break cellulose acetate down and this suggests that the fibers found in the lungs of a smoker are made up of these substances (Penman).

However, the long term effects of smoking are that a person will cough continuously and the cilia will not work properly. Coughing provides a quick fix which violently expels air in hopes of dislodging any offending particles. The lining of the lungs are cover with cilia which continuously beats. This generates a flow of materials and is able to move unwanted particle and material out of your mouth. Some of the unwanted materials or particles are spores, dusts,

pollens, and ashes just about any kind of bacteria. The cilia movements are used to clear up any foreign particles in your lungs. For non-smoker to sit next or in a restaurant full of people smoking, this may heighten the effects of allergies and asthma. It is extremely dangerous to smoke around children and infants because their immune system is not fully developed (Onken).

On the other hand, the short-term effects are just some small symptoms you may feel. If you have decided to quit smoking and have been off for a while. Some of the symptoms you may deal with are high fever, vomiting, hunger, and short of breath. The smokers have no long-term effects on secondhand smokers because they are not always around you. A person may feel that it is getting harder to breathe and that their oxygen is getting taken away when they are around cigarette smoke. But really once you escape the environment your body will go into its normal state and you will be back to normal. After a short while being a secondhand smoker, you may feel some of these symptoms short of breath, headache, vomiting, dizziness, and nausea. These are just some of the short-term effects of secondhand smoking (Onken).

However, millions of people everyday lives with the fact that tomorrow when they wake-up for that morning for coffee their clothing will have cigarettes smoke odor. But they do not realize that by just being around the cigarettes smoke can have an effect on a person. Millions of Americans are always rushing from place to place without even realizing the potential danger surrounds them. It is called secondhand smoke and it kills over a million people. Secondhand smoking may seem harmless to a person but it is a serious matter that should be dealt with in communities. Most people don't realize the air we breathe in when we're in a certain environment. Imagine yourself in a restaurant enjoying having a great time chatting to your friends. All of sudden everyone grabs a cigarette and starts smoking it, while you sit there with a major headache. Your head gets dizzy, as you grab for the water because you're short of breath,

then all of sudden collapsing on to the floor. It turns out you have lung cancer. One of the many unlucky one; you didn't smoke but how and why? Being around secondhand smoke may cause these things and worst of all, death. Secondhand smoking and death is one of the leading causes in cost to the economy.

However, cigarettes have always played a big part in our economy. It's one of the leading money- maker and powerful emperor in the market. Most small businesses assume that if the ban was to be enforced they will lose their customers that come in to be able to sit and smoke. Pat Weinberg, the owner of Purple Onion Cafe in Minneapolis, said "I have been asking (customers) what they are going to do when they ban it, and a lot of them think they are going to stop coming" (Kaiser). He also added, "We have had too many other things happen to us in the last three years, with the economy the way it is and Sept. 11. We didn't need this, too, now to overcome" (Kaiser). Many businesses think this will drive them out of business because they have no other way of rolling in customers. The regular smoker will be gone because they won't be able to enjoy a perfectly good morning with a cigarette and coffee. Liz Workman, a Bumsville Council member here in Minnesota, said "don't feel like we're being used by Big Tobacco" (Geesner). She also believes the city shouldn't be able to make the decisions for them about the smoking ban. She thinks that everyone is grown enough to make their own decisions(Geesner). Liz Workman also stated, "To me, this is a decision that's made by the businesses" and "I'm not about to dictate to a restaurant or bar who their customer should be" (Geesner).

On the other hand, people believe this ban will benefit the bars and restaurants. A junior, Shelly Williams from the University of Minnesota was busy studying at Minneapolis Starbucks in Dinky Town. She said her favorite coffee shop is the Purple Onion Cafe in Minneapolis, but she doesn't like it smelling like smoke. "Once all coffee shops are smoke-free, I will attend the

Purple Onion Cafe much more regularly" she said (Kaiser). People will be able to get better and cleaner air which will draw in more customers. The chance of second-hand smoke wouldn't be as effective. Most customers will attend regularly and more people will flock in because they too, can enjoy a good meal. Big companies still won't lose that many customers and they'll still maintain their authorities. In the articles from Minnesota's smoke-free coalition (Smoke-free); economic studies suggested that the laws play no negative impact on small businesses. The laws are made to protect the employees and its customers of secondhand smoke. The only effects are on the cigarettes companies; therefore, they try to persuade the smaller companies into believing them (Smoke-free).

Many may argue that there are drugs out there to help decrease the effect of secondhand smoke. The Vanderbilt Medical center did a research on a reducing the effects of secondhand smoke. In the study it showed that by taking a daily 500 dose of Vitamin C, it may reduce the effect of secondhand smoke. In the research it showed that cigarettes contain a high level of free radicals or known better as oxidant stress. By taking Vitamin C the isoprostane levels drops lower or in other words the Vitamin C sends some chemical to block the free radicals/oxidant stress from entering your blood vessels into the cell membrane (MacMillan).

On the other hand, cigarettes contain over 4,000 chemicals and 43 known to cause cancer that are to be deadly to humans. Even second-hand smoke is deadly. Cigarettes contain substance that is made to be addicting. Nicotine is put into every cigarette; it is to make sure a person will grab their second cigarette. Nicotine is absorbed into a person's blood stream and that makes them crave for it again. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said, "it's had listed it as a Class A carcinogen-meaning that you are unsafe in its presence at any level" (Etta). They also released a finding about the effects of secondhand smoking: "estimated that 53,000 die each

years do to the cause of secondhand smoke because of lung cancer or heart disease" (Etta). It shows that children are especially vulnerable to secondhand smoke. Children have sensitive lungs and they are damaged by cigarettes. A study conducted by the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), shows that exposure to secondhand smoke leads to asthma in previously unaffected children and worsens the symptoms for up to one million additional children. The study also shows that it has also been found to have an effect among these areas such as ear infections, pneumonia, and bronchitis. The cigarette smoke such as asbestos, carbon monoxide, and methane, are shown to be extremely toxin to children who repeatedly are exposed over and over again. Secondhand smoke does directly impact every person and business (Etta). The Minnesota Medical Association said, "Each year exposure to secondhand smoke contributes to more than 6,400 Minnesota deaths caused by a tobacco-related disease at a cost of more than \$1.3 billion annually in increased health care costs, health insurance costs, and costs related to lost employee productivity" (qtd. by Etta).

Cigarettes are the leading cause of death among men and women. It's really putting a dent in the economy with the cost of health care and health insurance. The chemical that have been put in these cigarettes are meant to kill. The big name companies have purposely put addictive drugs in the cigarettes to make a person feed for more of their products like cigarettes and tobacco. Each time a person lights up a cigarette it affects everyone around them. Many people agree that secondhand smoke does kill and it does affect each and every person. It may not be you but are you willing to take that chance on your family and love one? Health is the biggest concern on the environment. The public places are mostly affected with cigarettes because it is where people can go out and have a light up with their buddies. The environment would be a better place without cigarettes because it causes most of the air people's breath in bars and

restaurants to be hazardous. Imagine a place with no dangerous chemical flying around in the air every time you take a sip from your morning coffee and breathe from the air. Now with all sorts of different facts presented to you; it is your chance to follow through and allowing the ban to be enforced.

~\*~NEXT SAMPLE~\*~

## Sample 2 for Workbook

### Same-Sex Marriage

As she watched her 3-year-old son convert a box into a spaceship, Kelly Burke was dreading the arrival of a letter that could change their lives.

The stay-at-home mom and her partner of 15 years, Dolores Doyle, are among the nearly 3,000 gay couples who wed in Oregon this spring. Now the status of those marriages, and the benefits that come with them, is unclear after Oregon voters decisively approved a ban on gay marriage this past week.

"The mailman came this morning and I panicked," said Burke, who relies on Doyle's employer for health insurance. "My first thought is: 'Oh my God, here comes the letter. They're cutting me off.'" (Crary)

How sad it is that same-sex couples in America must live in terror day-to-day fearing that their lives may be forever changed on a decision by the U.S government. Same-sex couples in America should be granted the right to marry as well as receive the same benefits from marriage as heterosexual couples do today.

Every year it seems that the United States is becoming more and more tolerant of minorities: Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, Women, and Homosexuals. It is quite evident that the homosexual population is becoming more recognized. 2003 was a big year for the gay and queer community. Bravo "came out of the closet" and introduced *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* with five gay men who invaded the homes of straight men across America and taught them how to dress, cook, groom, dance, shop and get the women to like them. When

Bravo "came out," it broke the hinges off of the closet door and introduced the first gay dating show, *Boy Meets Boy*. *Queer as Folk* was the first gay- oriented, primetime show to air on television, sporting female fan clubs all over the nation. A gay couple won *The Amazing Race* on network television, Canada legalized gay marriage, and NBC was in full swing with *Will and Grace*. Rosie O'Donnell proclaimed her homosexuality to the world and became the poster girl for gay moms across America. Ellen DeGeneres received her own television talk show and has been going strong ever since. These are just a few examples of homosexuals in the media.

This voice of homosexuals across America became louder in this past election as same-sex marriage was one of the main topics of the presidential debate. Vice President Dick Cheney responded to numerous questions at press conferences on the topic of same-sex marriage on the campaign trail:

Lynne and I have a gay daughter, so it's an issue that our family is very familiar with. ... With respect to the question of relationships, my general view is that freedom means freedom for everyone. People ... ought to be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to. (Cheney)

For the first time in American history, there is a Vice President with an openly gay child. Homosexuality was not invented in the last decade or even the last century. It is something that has been around since the beginning of time. Formal historical data provided by ancient records dealing with male homosexuality in China can be dated back to the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th century - 11th century BC), according to Li Yinhe in her book *History of Chinese Homosexuality (History of...)*. The only thing that has changed is the fact that people are now able to "come out of the closet" and be open about their sexual orientation. James McGreevey, the governor of New Jersey, announced his homosexuality after his adulterous homosexual relationship and committed political suicide because Americans were not ready for a homosexual

political figure (CNN). He could not be open about his sexual orientation and had to hide it with a marriage to a woman.

As mentioned before, the number of openly gay citizens in the United States has seemingly increased. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, it was reported that there were 145,130 gay and lesbian families living in the United States. In the 2000 U.S. Census, it was reported that there were a whopping 601,209 gay and lesbian families living in the United States. That is an astonishing 314 percent increase, not to mention that the Human Rights Campaign estimates that the 2000 U.S. Census count of gay and lesbian families I could have been undercounted by as much as 62 percent (U.S. Census Bureau).

The number of same-sex relationships in the US are increasing according to the U.S Census Bureau. Also increasing is the love, strength, and security in same-se relationships. Love is a very important thing that two people share. When there is binding love and affection between two people, they may wish to get married and share their lives with each other forever. The case is not the same for same-sex couples. The law does not allow same-sex couples to marry and enjoy the 1,049 benefits and responsibilities that go along with it (Frist).

Marriage equality would build on America's tradition of moving civil rights forward and erasing the mistakes of the past. The real tradition in this country has been to pass laws to safeguard the American people and to expand laws where they leave citizens unprotected, as was done for voting rights and workplace protections. It is also an American tradition to abandon discriminatory laws, even if they are popular - as were bans on interracial marriage and Jim Crow laws segregating the races in everyday life (Norton).

Marriage protects couples nationwide. Unlike civil unions and domestic partnerships, which are not transferable, marriages are recognized across state lines, under the Constitution's

full faith and credit clause. If the question of recognition is left to the states, same-sex couples in some states might not ever achieve equality (Human Rights Campaign). Some may say, "If a state isn't willing to recognize your marriage, move elsewhere." Only in a perfect world would this work. Companies transfer their employees all the time, health problems prevent some people from living in cold climates, and close-knit families may have a hard time living away from loved ones.

Any step toward legal recognition of same-sex couples and their families is a step in the right direction. Same-sex couples will not be truly equal until they, as well, can receive marriage licenses. As American history has proven, a separate but equal system does not ensure real equality. History has taught us this when we tried forcing African-Americans into separate schools, restaurants, buses, bathrooms, libraries, phone booths, theatres and other public places. And nothing short of marriage would provide same-sex couples with the more than 1,000 benefits, responsibilities and protections afforded under federal law on the basis of marital status.

Public support is growing. The Human Rights Campaign released results in August 2003 from a poll conducted by the Democratic polling firm of Peter D. Hart Research Associates and the Republican firm American Viewpoint. The poll showed that 50 percent of registered voters support or accept granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples as long as religious institutions do not have to recognize or perform these marriages. A total of 47 percent were opposed. There is no agreement in this country about denying the legal protections of marriage to same-sex couples. In fact, polls show that a plurality of voters support or accept granting marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples (Human Rights Campaign). Also, according to a September 22, 2003 ABC News survey, only 20 percent would agree with amending the U.S. Constitution to ban marriage for gays and lesbians (ABC News).

Gay and lesbian people deserve equal opportunity to the American dream. Homosexual people grow up dreaming of falling in love, getting married and growing old together. Just as much as the next person, same-sex couples should be able to fulfill that dream. Since same-sex couples are not allowed to marry, some opt for a commitment ceremony to declare their love for each other. After same-sex couples have a commitment ceremony, they are treated as a married couple by their friends and family. Should they too not have the legal security that goes along with marriage?

One point that both sides of the marriage debate can agree upon is that marriage strengthens families. Children are more secure if they are raised in homes with two loving parents who have a legal relationship with them and can share the responsibilities and joys of parenthood. According to conservative estimates from the 2000 census, there are more than 1 million children being raised by same-sex couples in the United States (U.S Census Bureau). Without the ability to establish a legal relationship to both parents, children of same-sex couples are left without important protections, such as Social Security survivor benefits. These children should not be penalized because of their parents' sexual orientation.

State laws protect married couples in very important ways, such as allowing hospital visitation, the right to inherit without a will, the right to make decisions in a medical emergency and literally over a thousand other ways. Some of these can be secured through expensive legal documents, but not all of them are assured (Human Rights Campaign). In addition, same-sex couples - who pay the same taxes and work just as hard as other couples - should not be forced to pay higher taxes and high legal fees just because of whom they love.

The Constitution promises liberty and justice to all Americans, not just the majority. Opponents of marriage equality are pushing a divisive measure that would amend the U.S.

Constitution to state that marriage "shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman." The Constitution has been used throughout American history to ensure, protect, and expand the Americans' liberties. It has never been amended to single out a class of people for unequal treatment. However, it has been amended to grant freedom of speech, religious liberty and voting rights for women and African-Americans (U.S. Constitution). The Constitution should secure equality, not secure dominance for the majority of Americans.

Just as no religious institution can be required by the government to marry a couple of different faith, no religious institution could or should be told to marry a same- sex couple. Right now, the government fails to ensure religious freedom when it refuses to honor the unions of same-sex couples performed by one religion the same way it honors those of opposite-sex couples (First Amendment).

America was founded because of religious freedom and the government shall not impose any religion or religious morals upon the citizens of the United States. On the contrary, Ireland is a Catholic-based country and the official government religion is Catholicism. According to Catholic World News, a Catholic periodical, An Irish judge ruled this week that a lesbian couple who were granted a marriage license in Canada will be allowed to argue that it should be legally recognized in Ireland (Catholic World News). It is quite amazing that a Catholic-based society can support its citizens despite of their sexual orientation. Why is it that America, the most "free" nation in the world, cannot support its citizens regardless of their sexual orientation?

At the very least, there are 1,049 protections, benefits and responsibilities extended to married couples under federal law, according to a 1997 study by the General Accounting Office (Frist). Same-sex couples in lifelong relationships pay higher taxes and are denied basic protections under the law. They receive no Social Security survivor benefits upon the death of a

partner, despite paying payroll taxes. They must pay federal income taxes on their employer's contributions toward their domestic partner's health insurance, while married employees do not have to pay such taxes for their spouses. They must pay all estate taxes when a partner dies. They often pay significant tax penalties when they inherit a 401k from their partner (Frist). They are denied family leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (United States National Department of Labor). All American families deserve these critical protections.

Family and the wellbeing of families is top priority for most people and most people enjoy the comfort of knowing their families are in "good hands." Parents, brothers, sisters, and grandparents of homosexuals deserve to enjoy the comfort of knowing that their homosexual relative is being taken care of. This issue not only affects homosexuals, but their families as well. This topic has been around for ages, is happening as we speak, and will not soon be forgotten. It is time that the government steps up and protects all citizens regardless of their race, gender, or sexual orientation. Let the American Dream stand for what America knows it as, "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for ALL."

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~\*~NEXT SAMPLE~\*~

**Sample 3 for Workbook**

3 December 2004

## For A Good Cause

Albert Camus once said, "Martyrs, my friend, have to worry about being forgotten, mocked, or used. As for being understood-never" ("Brainy"). It takes a great amount of passion and intensity to sacrifice a life for a belief or dream, yet history is full of examples. Many go overlooked and unrecognized because they do not fulfill the description that society has set. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a martyr is a person who sacrifices something of great value, especially life itself, for the sake of principal ("Martyr"). The main principal differs with each martyr, ranging from religion to politics. Some lose bloodshed for the love of their country; others die in vain for their families. Whatever the reason, understanding is not delivered until after the death, and sometimes it is never delivered at all. In writer Jack Kerouac's case, understanding is hard to come across, but fairly easy to understand. Kerouac martyred himself for his writing.

According to biographer Ellis Amburn, Jack Kerouac was born March 12, 1922 in Lowell, Massachusetts. Born to alcoholic parents Leo and Gabrielle, he had two older siblings- Francois and Caroline. Even though most of his childhood took place in a broken home, Kerouac still felt loved and cared for, especially from his mother. His father wasted most of the family's savings on booze and gambling, and because of this the family moved many times. As bad as a role model Leo proved to be, he was held high in his son's respects, exemplifying manhood. The harsh childhood of Kerouac played a significant role in his actions of adulthood: alcohol abuse, extreme drug use, and struggles with sexuality (Amburn 8-11).

After surviving childhood, part of college, and the navy, Jack returned home for a brief stay shortly after his father died of stomach cancer. He began to explore the jazz scene with his close

friends (Allen Ginsberg, Neal Cassidy, and William S. Burroughs) and life in general. Jack distinguished his fellow members of the breed to be that of the "Beat Generation"- referring to the shared perspective of society: worn out and exhausted. Kerouac did not have the slightest idea that the term would come to define a critical movement in American literature (Amburn 254).

Through these new explorations, Kerouac was introduced to many different destructive habits-one of them being alcohol. He was already developing a love for alcohol, slowly taking after his father. The drinking scene was big at college, and Kerouac enjoyed himself enormously-taking part in events such as "beer barrels," in which one person is challenged to drink one keg (Amburn 54). Since these parties were favored by Kerouac, he was granted with instant popularity. Even after college, the drinking never ceased. He started writing more, and the writing ultimately became affected by it. Alcohol plays a significant theme in most of Kerouac's novels, especially *On the Road*. In the beginning of the long trip across America, Jack Kerouac's character Sal spends most all of his money on alcohol, even though he needed to save it for the rest of the trip. All of the so-called "good times" Jack was experiencing included alcohol: "I was getting drunk and didn't care; everything was fine" (Kerouac 33). "Everything was fine" was exactly the reason Jack drank excessively-everything seemed fine when liquor was in his blood.

The drinking never tired or bored Kerouac and it continued until his death, until the end of his writings. On October 20, 1969, Jack's body gave into the life long battle with alcohol. Internal bleeding caused by cirrhosis of the liver was pronounced cause of death (Amburn 373). Even though it tore apart his life, it added life to his writings.

As alcohol played a large role in Kerouac's life, so did drug use. His first taste of the drug world was marijuana. Kerouac and his fellow "beatniks" were introduced to the drug when they

became involved in the current jazz moment (Amburn 254). According to biography Ellis Amburn, Jack lit up his first joint at a jazz club. Through the common drug use, Jack could experience anything and everything better. It helped to open the doors of creativity in a new way, and Jack was hooked (Amburn 45). Mention of this drug use is found often in his writing, usually coded in a different name, such as "tea." In the adventurous novel *On the Road*, Kerouac uses these illustrations: "Ain't nothing better in the world to give you an appetite. I once ate a horrible lunchcart hamburg on tea and it seemed like the most delicious thing in the world" (Kerouac 145).

Not only did it open up doors of newfound creativity for Kerouac, it also opened up doors to other drugs. The marijuana proved its definition of "the gateway drug," and the experimentation began. First was Benzedrine, a form of amphetamines. This stimulant, commonly known as speed, provided the trip young Kerouac was looking for. The drug produced a feeling of excitement, confidence, and an urge to convey seemingly new insights, which made it irresistible to a compulsive writer like Kerouac (Amburn 98). It seemed to be a favorite of him and his friends, and a reoccurring theme in *On the Road*. Sometime after the book was written, the addicted writer would admit that he wrote *On the Road* while doped up on Benzedrine, and wrote the entire book in "three 'full moon nights'" (Bartlett 124). As alcohol had, drugs started to become a daily occurrence. However, it turned out to be quite a bit more than just a daily occurrence.

Kerouac, along with most of his friends, became an incurable speed addict. His life revolved around the Benzedrine, which meant that his writing did also. He felt that he could write with better insight, and in a greater abundance. Kerouac felt that these writings fell under the subject as prose, but his friends felt that the writings were absolutely nothing due to the

extreme Benzedrine addiction. One of his closest friends thought that his writings were complete "gibberish," and most publishing companies would not accept the strange works (Amburn 101-102).

However, the push for the edge of reality was still far from embracing, and Kerouac knew this all too well. Drugs illuminated the pathway to the outer realm, and Kerouac followed the beaten trail of the hopeless drug addict. New drugs were introduced by friends, including opium, morphine, peyote, dope, and codeine (Amburn 174, 181, 234). The American writer developed a false sense of enjoyment through all of these, and progressed into a deeper drug habit, despite the efforts of his closest friends. Most of them joined in with Kerouac, but slowly attempted to stop because of the "self determination and hope" that was stolen (Amburn 175).

Cultists will expand the drug dapping in the book to experimentation with hallucinogens of every variety in their determination to prove unreality of limitation. They will take to the road again and again, assaulting life demanding of it more than it seems willing to give. There can be no backsliding, they declare, even as the ground is slipping away beneath their feet. More was gained than lost, they will swear, but the task of containing this gain and finding victory in it will have to wait for others. (Whissen 176)

Vehement but determined, Kerouac created a trend for the beat generation, and defined the rules of the road as a signature cultist. He knew what must be done to achieve the zenith of an influential writer, and took the steps in a severe, yet polished way. Alcohol and drug abuse steered his life in a rollercoaster of ups and downs, and extreme confusion resulted in many different aspects: writing, sexuality, and life in general. He was slowly beginning to deteriorate, but the vision was still holding strong, and would be until the end.

Even though it is said that the writer had been lost in his sexuality since a young age, his drug and alcohol dependency still played a very influential role. Almost as an exact result from the substances, Kerouac's sexuality began to control everything from his writing to his friends.

The domino affect took advantage of him without mercy. The first buzz from the drinking lead to the better high from the drugs, and new kinds of experimentation resulted. Not experimentation with alcohol, or a new drug, but with other people-some of the opposite sex, others the same.

As a young child, Kerouac acquired a taste for not just his own body parts, but those of his friends. The group of boys that he spent time with did many things that hints at homosexuality: bask naked together in the sun, grab each other's testicles, and admire each others' body parts. The young Kerouac enjoyed taking part in all of these, but felt uneasy because of the fact that he enjoyed it. The group did not feel that the actions contained anything that could be considered homosexual, and this confused him because he felt differently. He quickly learned that in order to keep his friends and social status, his true feelings must be hidden from others (Amburn 19-20).

As time went on, Kerouac's struggle understanding his sexuality did not get easier. Behind close doors, he would experiment with other men to feed his homosexual drive. Meanwhile, in front of football teammates and/or other heterosexual friends, it would be the extreme opposite-gay bashing, multiple female sexual partners, and self denial (Amburn 54). The act of proving to his homophobic friends became a tiring task for Kerouac, and only added to the immense amount of confusion that was already tearing him apart. He was accepted by others when he acted on his heterosexuality, and tried to ignore the fact that he was lying to himself. He was happy when he acted on his homosexuality, and tried to ignore the rejection that would result. Both ways felt right and wrong at the same time, so it was difficult for Kerouac to choose one lifestyle.

The alcohol, drugs, and sexuality joined together to form a vicious cycle. Once drunk, Kerouac would feel the need for his next pick-me-up, and go for the drugs. The illegal substances were usually those of a friend, and a good chance that the friend was a sexual partner

of the same sex. The third addiction became just as strong as the others, and the reckless habit of pleading for sexual favors and drugs from friends was common. Allen Ginsberg, who also was considered homosexual, was one that Kerouac shared a deep relationship with. Being a frequent call on, Ginsberg was frustrated with his friend's sexual dishonesty, as his fellow writer would deny being gay during their sexual acts (Amburn 328).

A happy medium was hard to find, and the double-edged sort of "happiness for who" would harass Kerouac throughout his whole life, and ultimately affect most of his actions-this of course, includes writing. The free-style of his writing directly reflected his lifestyle: untamed, spontaneous, and spur of the moment. In Kerouac's *Essentials of Spontaneous Prose*, the writer outlines the "rules" of capturing his famous style: "...Blow as deep as you want-write as deeply, fish as far down as you want, satisfy yourself first, then reader... if possible write 'without consciousness' in semitrance... Come from within, out-to relaxed and said" (Kerouac ).

Kerouac's struggle for his literary vision was completed quickly, but the acknowledgement, and more important the respect, did not come until it was way past due. The writer sacrificed his body, friendships, and his life for his writing. Some critics are still reluctant to accept his writing. Others are open minded, and appreciate the random and unconstrained way of writing, and also deeply respect him as a visionary. Comparing the personality of his novels to Christ, Paul Giles points out that they are both "socially disenfranchised martyrs who possess the heroic faculty or 'divine' vision.. ." (Giles 410).

Only a divine vision could be held by a divine visionary. The ideals held by Kerouac were much ahead of his time, and almost too far out of reach by others that shared the mindset. He was a crucial leader in the beat generation, and single handily put a new spin on literature. Critic John Tytell puts it well when he states: "Every so often a writer appears who so aptly captures

the music of his moment, the attitudes and aspirations of his time, that he becomes the voice of a generation" (Tytell 166). The "voice" of a generation was a result from his sacrifices, and his voice still speaks today. Only a true martyr's vision continues on.

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