

14. Should we impose a complete **tobacco ban** or not?

1. WATCH the video and tick the arguments that the speaker uses.
2. WRITE and make your own presentation on whether we should impose a complete tobacco ban or not.

Should we impose a complete ban on tobacco?

Source: <https://quitsmokingcommunity.org/the-big-debate-should-cigarette-smoking-be-banned/>

In favor of smoking

1. People should be allowed to do what they like, so long as they are not harming anyone. Bans, make many smokers feel like their rights are being violated and like they cannot have freedom to do as they please.
2. According to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights they should have the freedom to smoke within their own property and in some public places should be allowed.
3. A ban totally outlawing cigarettes would cause anarchy. It will bring about large-scale havoc since black market activities and the crime ensued will thrive.

Against smoking

1. It would do the public good to be rid of cigarettes and smoking once and for all. According to scientific research both inhaled and secondhand smoke are dangerous.
2. Smoking infringes on the rights of those nearby to smokers. It puts them at risk without their consent and causes numerous health issues for smoker and secondhand smoker alike.
3. Smoking causes cancer, emphysema, lung and throat disease, and various other kinds of health issues. We must also note also the detrimental effect it has on children, as it affects them more severely.
4. The smokers' rights may be violated by outlawing their favorite habit but it is a small price to pay for the greater good. A complete ban on tobacco would serve public health and result in lower insurance rates for all.

Background information

The US Prohibition of Alcohol 1920 – 1933

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition_in_the_United_States)

Prohibition in the United States was **a nationwide constitutional ban** on the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages that remained in place **from 1920 to 1933**.

Prohibition supporters, called “**drys**“, presented it as a victory for public morals and health. Opposition from the beer industry, mobilized “**wet**” supporters.

In the 1920s the laws were widely disregarded, and tax revenues were lost. Very well organized criminal gangs took control of the beer and liquor supply for many cities, unleashing a crime wave that shocked the nation.

Wets attacked prohibition as causing crime, lowering local revenues
Prohibition ended with the ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment, which repealed the Eighteenth Amendment on December 5, 1933.

Although popular opinion believes that Prohibition failed, it succeeded in cutting overall alcohol consumption in half during the 1920s, and consumption remained below pre-Prohibition levels until the 1940s, suggesting that Prohibition did socialize a significant proportion of the population in temperate habits, at least temporarily.

An actual report

Source: <https://quitsmokingcommunity.org/the-big-debate-should-cigarette-smoking-be-banned/>

“I believe smoking should be banned. I live in a row home that is surrounded by smokers. They smoke all day, every day. At times, I can smell the smoke in my home. When they are smoking heavily, **I choke** throughout the night. **My infant daughter coughs** continuously. It is not fair to me or my family that we must constantly have to deal with this. When I walk down the street, I can’t go anywhere in my neighborhood without smelling cigarette or marijuana smoke. It is ridiculous. Not to mention, at my old job there were 2 guys who sat next to me who smoked. **The smoke lingered on them. I could smell it all day long**. It was so bad some days that my eyes actually rolled back at how strongly they smelled of smoke. Whenever I walked into work, I would have to wade through all the smokers in the smoking section next to the door. It is a **public nuisance** and **it effects the lives of those who have no direct contact more than society would like to point out.**”