

Sample Letter to the Editor #1

[DATE]

Editorial Page Editor
[NEWSPAPER NAME]
[ADDRESS]

Dear Editor:

With all the news about the devastating effects of drugs such as ecstasy, heroin and cocaine, it's easy to understand why some kids and even parents believe that marijuana is harmless. But I have seen the destructive effects of marijuana on the lives of young people. Marijuana use by teens can lead to a host of health, social, learning and behavioral problems. Parents must take action to help decrease marijuana use by kids in our community.

Many parents and adults, based on their own experiences with the drug, still believe that marijuana is benign and not as serious as other drugs such as ecstasy. Some adults may feel there is nothing they can do to stop their kids from experimenting. Kids overwhelmingly say that parents are the most powerful influence on them when it comes to drugs.

It's time to send a "wake-up call" to parents about marijuana. We need to give parents the facts about the risks of marijuana use and educate them about the things they can say and do to prevent their kids from using the drug. [ADD LOCAL ACTION/CONTACT INFORMATION HERE.] Or visit www.TheAntiDrug.com. Young people deserve to know that marijuana is a serious drug with serious consequences. Help us tell them.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[TITLE]
[ORGANIZATION]
[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY INDIVIDUAL NEWSPAPERS, SUCH AS DAYTIME AND EVENING PHONE NUMBER]

Sample to the Editor #2

[DATE]

Editorial Page Editor
[NEWSPAPER NAME]
[ADDRESS]

Dear Editor:

If I did it and turned out fine, then what's the big deal?

This is what many parents think when it comes to talking to their kids about marijuana.

So they don't.

Meanwhile, according to the 2001 Monitoring the Future Study, the number of 8th graders who have used marijuana has doubled in the last decade. Marijuana use by kids can lead to a host of health, social, learning and behavioral problems at a crucial time in their young lives. It can lead to some changes in the brain similar to those caused by cocaine, heroin and alcohol. And many are surprised to learn that more kids enter treatment each year with a primary diagnosis of marijuana dependency than any other illicit drug.

But since many parents don't think marijuana use is a big deal, kids don't either.

[YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME] wants to help change that perception.

We are working in our community to spread the word to kids and their parents that marijuana is a serious drug with serious consequences. Marijuana is riskier than you think. And all of us have a responsibility to teach kids about the dangers of the drug. For more information about the risks of marijuana for kids, contact us at [INSERT LOCAL CONTACT INFO] or visit www.TheAntiDrug.com.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[TITLE]
[ORGANIZATION]
[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY INDIVIDUAL NEWSPAPERS SUCH AS
DAYTIME AND EVENING PHONE NUMBER]