Why smoking ages should be risen?

Over the years, tobacco sales have risen with teenagers being the top consumers to buy cigarettes. Since teenagers can buy cigarettes and other tobacco products at the age of eight teen, teenagers are the ones that are consuming these toxic cigarettes. Cigarettes should be banned or at least should have a higher age rate to buy them. Some teenagers are only smoking cigarettes to look cool around their friends, when in reality it is really affecting their bodies in the long run. The products that factories put into cigarettes are not good to consume into someone’s body. Cigarettes are also toxic because they can cause or start cancer in the body. If the legal age is higher to buy cigarettes, it would be better because teenagers could be more effective throughout school including sports and other activities. Not saying that everyone gets cancer, but a larger percentage of people who smoke cigarettes do and can die from the toxic things put into cigarettes.

Throughout the last two years, tobacco industries created new products for adults to quit smoking. The most commonly device that teenagers are using now is called a JUUL. The JUUL was made to help smokers slow -down from smoking cigarettes and to help them later on to quit. Studies show that majority of the JUUL consumers are teenagers. Many teenagers are getting addicted to the JUUL device and it is really sad. Multiple people go out of control when they lose the JUUL device. People become very addicted to the nicotine that tobacco products put into the device. It becomes actually hard for people to stop using this vape. The JUUL device has a 5% nicotine in each pod which adds up to 20 cigarettes. Each pack of pods come with 4 pods. If one pod equals 20 cigarettes, then 4 pods equal to 80. Over time, people continue to purchase these addictive pods which makes it harder for people to stop smoking them. Teens are taking advantage of this smoking device to either look cool around friends or that they really want to start or quit smoking. Reportedly according to the news chats on snapchat, teenagers who smoked or consumed the JUUL was 3,600,000 people. In this generation, it is not hard for teenagers 18 and older to get the JUUL products or device for younger teenagers. Also many teenagers start smoking between the ages of 18 – 21. At the age of 21, teenagers would not have the same mindset as they did when they were 18. Teenagers also experience more damage than adults do when smoking cigarettes. Teens’ brains are still developing within young ages. Raising the legal age would also prevent tobacco from coming in and out of high schools. This is why the legal age to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products should be raised to 21.

Cigarettes also kill people in the long run, and that is what some people fail to realize today. The many different materials used in cigarettes and other tobacco products damages our body. Not only does nicotine damage our body, but the harmful products used can cause many different cancers. But cigarettes do not automatically kill people, it takes years to finally feel the pain from them. For example, my great uncle died in 2009 from lung cancer. He smoked every day for the past 20 years and did not realize he had cancer until the last 5 years. His body started to shut down faster and faster until it actually collapsed. The doctors told him he had 3 – 6 years left of living, but he died within 2 years due to his lungs shutting down on him. His lungs shut down faster than everyone thought it would. It was a very sad and hard time, but one thing he told me and my cousins before he passed was to never start smoking cigarettes during our lifetime.

Many states are trying or have already changed the legal age to buy cigarettes and tobacco products to 21. States such as Massachusetts, Hawaii, Maine, Oregon, California, and New Jersey have changed their legal age to 21 along with many cities. I do not know if this is true or not, but the other day I saw on the news that the Virginia House of Representatives is passing a bill to change the legal age from 18 to 21. This is a good idea especially in this state because many teenagers that I know are getting influenced to smoke at young ages. Younger teens like to hang out with older teens so that they could smoke and get other products that they can’t purchase.

In conclusion, the legal age should be raised to 21 due to the different causes of death, peer pressure, and safer school environments. If the legal drinking age got changed to 21, why can’t the smoking age be changed too?

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