Chapter 12

Discussion Questions.

1. The use of marijuana as a medical treatment drug is being more widely accepted around the U.S. although many states have strict laws against its use. Why would people, especially policymakers such as politicians, want to deny those that could benefit from its use the right to do so?
2. The United States has declared “War” on many things over the years including poverty and crime. Is the use of the word “war” an appropriate term to use when attempting to curb or reduce social problems in a society such as poverty and drug use?
3. A lot of inmates incarcerated in American’s jails and prisons are detained because of drug and alcohol related crimes. Most of these inmates receive little or no substance abuse treatment while incarcerated and after serving their sentences are released back into society expected to be “model citizens” to never use drugs again, to be great parents and hold stable jobs. Is this realistic and if not, what should be done?
4. Many workplaces have a zero tolerance drug abuse policy which means if you are caught using illegal drugs, you will be immediately fired. Some would consider this businesses attempting to control personal behavior outside of the workplace. Should businesses have the right to do this? If an employee (excluding occupations such as truck drivers, medical professionals, teachers, etc.) can successfully do her/his job and use recreational drugs in non- work related times, should it matter to the business?
5. Discuss the no-smoking policy that is now in place in many institutions. Ask the students how they feel about these policies (perhaps select places like bars or casinos).
6. Marijuana is seen by some as a “gateway drug” meaning usage of this leads to heavier illicit drug usage. Discuss this issue with the class. Why do so many researchers feel this way?
7. Discuss with the class why drug rehabiliatation may not work for some people. What are the factors that may lead to a relapse?