

The discursive essay:

Smoking, though popular and widespread, is generally considered harmful. Consequently, tighter bans and restrictions have been imposed on smoking. It usually concerns mainly indoor smoking; however, NYC's council went even further and imposed the ban on outdoor smoking. While only a few argue about the legitimacy of indoor smoking restrictions, I agree with Mr Siegel that the ban on outdoor smoking at selected places in NY went too far.

Passing smoking bans and restrictions is generally desirable, yet arguably, the efforts of the local council may backfire against the entire anti-smoking movement. It is important to note that in 21 states in the USA the indoor smoking ban is yet to be imposed. Thus the N.Y. council's efforts could divert public opinion since one might perceive these efforts as a smoker-hunt instead of the pursuit of public health. As a result, it may imperil efforts in other states to pass indoor smoking bans, which are undoubtedly more desirable for society. (nice!

Although it may be argued that even a short exposure to small doses of smoke is harmful, there is little to no scientific evidence to support this claim. The research that is cited by supporters of the ban is (purposely) misinterpreted in favour of the outdoor ban, which undermines with the main driving force of the movement - scientific credibility. Indeed, no reviewed research states that short-term exposure to outdoor smoke causes long-term damage to the body. Consequently, the movement risks losing scientific credibility to the opposition, an eventuality hard to imagine.

To conclude, while it may be wise to enforce indoor smoking bans, a blatant smoker-hunt may change the view of the public regarding anti-smoking movement, especially, when scientific evidence is purposely misinterpreted in pursuit of political agenda. Therefore, I do believe that the outdoor smoking ban is not legitimate.

well done!

clear, concise,

well-developed + reasoned argument

I can add nothing.

Thanks, P -

Excellent.