

## Grade 10 Unit 2 EA2 Creating an Argument

Score: Proficient

Alcoholism is a serious addiction, which certain people have a genetic predisposition to. Most people don't even know that they have this risk for alcoholism, or how detrimental the alcohol is on their health. Then, the companies that market alcohol direct it at these people, and teenagers. Alcohol is negative on health, your social life and family, and some people have a genetic predisposition for alcoholism. I believe that the minimum drinking age should be raised to 25, and that there should be tighter controls on alcohol advertisements. These factors together make alcohol one of the great injustices of today and the last hundred years.

Alcohol is extremely detrimental to your health, and is an important factor in many diseases. One thing to keep in mind is that "alcohol is a necessary underlying cause for more than 30 conditions" (Alcohol). A low to moderate amount of drinking can be good for your cardiovascular health, however it's easy to go over top with drinking. This amount of drinking is harmful for your health, and can develop into full blown alcoholism. Alcohol kills brain cells, so if you have too many drinks, you will effectively be a less intelligent person after. Also, beer is a very high carbohydrate drink, so this can lead to obesity, and all the problems that come with that. Alcohol is almost completely negative for your health, and people often times completely look over this.

Alcoholism can also create a familial divide, and ruin your social life and status. People often drink because of problems in their lives, this is especially well shown in *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. In the book Jurgis, the main character, often turns to drink when problems arise. A quote from the book is when a family member comes home with 3 dollars after the death of Ona, Jurgis' wife "have you any money?" "Yes" "how much?" "Nearly three dollars, Jurgis" "give it to me" (Sinclair 214). Jurgis then goes to the bar to get drunk. He stole the money that could save the family and spent it on booze. This often happens in our real world, teenagers stealing from their parents to buy beer, or a man spending his month's wages at the bar. When you get drunk, your judgment is inebriated, and you might do something you would regret, ending up in jail,

or on the side of the road. This can lead to losing friends, your job, or even your family, your whole life could be gone by the bottom of the bottle.

Finally, some people are at a natural risk for alcoholism, as it is passed down genetically, from parent to child. In a study on the passing of substance abuse a man said “Alcoholism often runs in families” said Frances, “and there is a great deal of denial” (Sobering). People are susceptible to alcoholism and don’t even know it, so they drink, get addicted, then exploited by alcohol companies. Even I am at a risk for alcoholism, because of a family history of it, and that means that I won’t ever drink. This predisposition means that getting addicted is much easier, and once you are addicted, it hard to stop, so begins the downwards spiral. The problem that lies in this is that people are ignorant about their family health, and get exploited because of this, and that where the injustice starts.

In conclusion, alcohol has extremely negative effects on your health, and can lead to many health problems down the road. The heavy drinking can lead to utter destruction of your life, ending up in jail or without a family, because you drove them away. People are at a natural risk for alcoholism, and are ignorant to this fact, then get taken advantage of, and cannot help it. It is for these reasons that I strongly believe that the minimum drinking age should be raised, alcohol ads should have even tighter restrictions, and restrict how much alcohol people can buy. Alcohol is one of the great injustices of our generation, and we are the only ones who can fix it.

Score: Proficient

Annotation

In this Proficient example of an argumentative essay, background to the issue and a claim are introduced and a clear relationship among the parts of an argument is carefully established and supported by evidence from three sources. It is true that the claim that “the minimum drinking age should be raised to 25, and that there should be tighter controls on alcohol advertisements” is not directly developed. Instead, the argument focuses on the detrimental effects of alcohol which is also part of the introduction. In short, the claim is too broadly stated. Though the claim is awkwardly stated in the introduction, the negative effects of excessive alcohol consumption is supported by textual evidence from multiple sources that is explained and cited correctly. The reasoning used to develop the argument is valid and the evidence relevant and sufficient. Though it barely works as a counterclaim, the essay addresses the fact that some people have a genetic predisposition for alcoholism and are at greater risk, no matter how tight controls are on advertisements. Transitions do a good job of reinforcing the coherence of the argument by linking the ideas clearly. The conclusion revisits the main points and reinforces the claim. The formal style is supported by effective diction choices and a generally effective control over conventions.