The most common problem attributed to marijuana is overuse, which can cause lethargic behavior, but does not cause serious health problems. Marijuana can cause short-term memory loss, but only while under the influence and it does not impair long-term memory. The largest study of its kind has unexpectedly concluded that smoking marijuana, even regularly and heavily, does not lead to lung cancer. The new findings "were against our expectations," said Donald Tashkin of the University of California at Los Angeles, a pulmonologist who has studied marijuana for 30 years (Kaufman). "We hypothesized that there would be a positive association between marijuana use and lung cancer, and that the association would be more positive with heavier use," he said. "What we found instead was no association at all, and even a suggestion of some protective effect. While no association between marijuana smoking and cancer was found, the study findings, presented at the American Thoracic Society International Conference, did find a 20-fold increase in lung cancer among people who smoked two or more packs of cigarettes a day"(Kaufman). Another problem associated with marijuana is the assumption that smoking it can cause people to lose brain cells.

Works Cited
One issue that may not jump out at us as important is the issue of divorce. The rate of divorce has risen drastically in the United States. This may not seem like an issue, but for young children that come from divorced homes, it is. According to Caitlin Flanagan, *Time Magazine* correspondent, “children from intact, two-parent families outperform those from single-parent households” (47). Some parents may think that the best thing would be for them to separate, but is it really? The children need both parents while growing up. Not only do they need them to perform well in school, but children who grow up without a father may end up with psychological effects, according to Maria Kefalas, a sociologist who studies marriage and family issues (Flanagan 47). These days celebrities are getting divorced right and left take; just look at Avril Lavigne and Deryck Whibley and Jon and Kate Gosselin, for two notorious examples. These power couples who are getting separated are making it seem as if it is okay to get divorced.

**Works Cited**

Thesis Paragraph:

Never Give Up Hope

With the economy at an all time low, unemployment at an all-time high and people disheartened, you would think that most people would think only of themselves. Happiness becomes a fleeting hope when trying to beat overwhelming odds and being charitable is rarely a consideration. However, goodness sometimes prevails and not everybody is giving up in these tough times. People are still doing positive things. Kindness, compassion and hope are essential elements of humanity. It is easy to forget when fighting an uphill battle comprised of poverty, cruelty, destitution but it is what allows people to prevail. It also can be life changing not only to be leant a helping hand but to be the one doing the helping. There is a deep satisfaction to be felt when you can contribute and know that you can make a difference. There are living examples of how people are willing to do their part and help those in need. Those examples include a celebrity rapper like Ludacris helping drivers without cars, or someone saving antelopes at the zoo, or the successful search for a little boy who disappeared with his mother for almost two years.

Articles:

Ludacris gives out cars to

Man saves antelopes at zoo

Mother and son who disappeared for two years found
Thesis Paragraph:

America is so focused on being green, but do we really understand what going green means? Does it mean cutting our showers short, turning the lights off when we don’t use them, using reusable shopping bags, or what about eating organic? All the families that are trying to go green need to realize that the energy they consume by trying to be green may be causing their CO₂ emissions to skyrocket. Also the food we are eating, the less expensive food, may be costing us more than we really think. Being green is not our only problem either. The children of divorced parents are doing worse in school and celebrity couples such as Guy Ritchie and Madonna are divorcing, making it almost a statement to get divorced. We have failed to see the important problems that our society has such as cheap food, CO₂ emissions, and marriages. The problems that we see on a daily basis and affect us directly can be easily fixed and there is still a glimmer of hope for these issues.

Works Cited


Conclusions:

1) As a society we have failed to see the importance of cheap food, CO₂ emissions, and marriages. Although we may have missed the importance there is still hope to fix these problems. We may be focused on going green, but in essence going green is not our only problem. We may say we want to go green, but we truly don’t understand what that means. We need to find a way to survive on organic food, so that we can preserve our farmlands. We also need to reduce our CO₂ emissions drastically and find a way to bring the divorce rate down. Hope is always peaking around the corner ready to help find a solution to these problems.

2) Newspapers, news channels, blogs and other forms of media detail the crimes that are committed every minute of the day. There seems to be no end to the misery that human beings will inflict on each other. And yet, there are also examples in the same media every day about people who overcome their adverse circumstances. Those contained here are but a small example of how human kindness, striving to beat the odds and tenacious hope are evident even when the chips are down. Changing people’s lives by giving them an opportunity to win a free car, trying to save a species of antelope by starting with just one baby, or a father finding his child after two years of never giving up hope is a lesson in how people can deal with so many other things in their lives while living in an adverse environment, and still lend a hand to those in desperate need.