**The Common Good**

**Balancing Rights in Modern Issues**

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Choose**one** scenario from the list in the lesson. If you want to choose a scenario not listed, please contact your instructor for approval.

Your Scenario: Smoking and Vaping

1. Based on your scenario, research the rationale for and against the proposed action. You will need **at least four** reputable sources total—two in support of and two against the proposed action. Sources could be government websites, interest groups, or even research organizations. You might find sources that detail both support and opposition---just be sure that you have balanced research.   
     
   Be sure to save the author, title, publisher, date, and URL address of each source. You will cite them in MLA style at the end of your essay.

**Citation Format:**

Author last name, First name. “Title of Article.” Website name, Day Month Year, URL address.

**Your Citations:**

Source #1—supports

Vandenbroucke, Frank. "Belgium to become first EU country to ban disposable vape sales." Reuters, 19 Dec. 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belgium-become-first-eu-country-ban-disposable-vape-sales-2024-12-19/​>

Source #2—supports

"Smoking ban introduced to protect children and most vulnerable." GOV.UK, 5 Nov. 2024, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-ban-introduced-to-protect-children-and-most-vulnerable​>

Source #3—opposes

Ibrahim, Reem. "Fury as Labour's clampdown on vaping could see more people take up SMOKING." The Sun, 1 Nov. 2024, <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/31604290/labour-clampdown-vaping-more-people-smoking/​>

Source #4—opposes

Hoylman-Sigal, Brad. "NY legislator proposes ban on flavored nicotine pouches including Zyn, despite FDA backing." New York Post, 23 Feb. 2025, <https://nypost.com/2025/02/23/us-news/ny-legislator-proposes-ban-on-flavored-nicotine-pouches-including-zyn-despite-fda-backing/​>

1. Write your essay using the following structure:
   1. **Introduce** your chosen scenario, discussing why it is an issue. Describe the limitation to individual rights or interests that is proposed in the scenario.  
      1. The rise in lung-related health issues among minors has prompted local health officials to propose a county-wide ban on the sale of tobacco and vape products. This measure aims to protect public health by restricting access to substances harmful to younger people. However, a ban like this raises concerns about individual freedoms, consumer choice, and the potential economic impact on businesses selling these products.
   2. Discuss at least two reasons to **support** this limitation. Refer to your research sources to support these reasons.
      1. Health Protection for Minors: Banning the sale of tobacco and vape products can reduce health risks among young people. For instance, Belgium's decision to ban disposable vape sales was because of concerns over their popularity among children and associated health risks. Health Minister Frank Vandenbroucke emphasized that such products attract new users, particularly younger people, with appealing designs and flavors.
      2. Environmental Considerations: Beyond health concerns, disposable vape products contribute to environmental pollution. The UK's initiative to ban these products stems from health and waste issues, highlighting the environmental impact of discarded vapes. ​
   3. Discuss at least two reasons to **oppose** this limitation. Refer to your research sources to support these reasons.
      1. Potential Increase in Traditional Smoking: Some argue that banning vape products might inadvertently lead individuals, especially young people, to revert to traditional smoking. In the UK, concerns have been raised that restricting vaping could drive people back to smoking cigarettes, potentially undermining public health efforts.
      2. Impact on Personal Liberties and Market Dynamics: Opponents contend that such bans infringe upon individual rights and could negatively affect businesses. In New York, legislative proposals to ban flavored nicotine pouches, despite FDA approval, have sparked debates about personal choice and economic implications for local retailers.
   4. **Take a stand**. Conclude with which side has the strongest argument and the reasons why it is more robust, considering your research evidence.
      1. According to the evidence, the arguments supporting the ban on the sale of tobacco and vape products to minors are more compelling. The potential health benefits and reduction in nicotine addiction among young people outweigh concerns about personal liberties and market dynamics. Implementing such a ban aligns with public health objectives to protect younger populations from the harms associated with tobacco and nicotine use.

1. Cite your sources using MLA format and list them at the bottom of your essay.

Vandenbroucke, Frank. "Belgium to become first EU country to ban disposable vape sales." Reuters, 19 Dec. 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belgium-become-first-eu-country-ban-disposable-vape-sales-2024-12-19/>

"Smoking ban introduced to protect children and most vulnerable." GOV.UK, 5 Nov. 2024, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-ban-introduced-to-protect-children-and-most-vulnerable>

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