

# SAMPLE STUDENT OUTLINE

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## Persuasive Speech

Specific Purpose: To persuade the audience to take action against second-hand smoke and the problems it causes.

Thesis Statement: New laws can help protect nonsmokers from second-hand smoke and the problems it causes.

### I. Introduction

- A. *Open with Impact*: What a smoker does to themselves is a personal matter, but what they do to a nonsmoker is quite a different matter.
- B. *Thesis Statement*: New laws can help protect nonsmokers from second-hand smoke and the problems it causes.
- C. *Credibility*: I am exposed to second-hand smoke when I go to bars and restaurants where cigarette smoking is permitted.
- D. *Relevance*: Every one in the room can breathe in the chemicals found in cigarettes whether they smoke or not.
- E. *Preview of Main Points*: Today I will be talking about a few of the problems of second-hand smoke. Next, I will tell you some solutions to the problem and how you can help. Finally, I will tell you how great it would be to not be around cigarettes if you do not want to.

### II. Body

- A. *Need/Problem Step*: What does second-hand smoke do to a nonsmoker?
  - 1. Carcinogens are cancer causing agents and are found in second-hand smoke.
    - a. A few of them are benzene, cadmium, chromium, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, and nickel.
    - b. Passive smoking is estimated, by the EPA, to cause about 3,000 lung cancer deaths in nonsmokers each year. ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov))
  - 2. Certain chemicals in second-hand smoke cause coronary disease.
    - a. Thirty minutes of passive smoking can reduce the arteries' ability to dilate, which may be a precursor to hardening of the arteries. (USA Today, 7/24/01)
    - b. Second-hand smoke causes about 37,000 deaths by heart disease every year. ([www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org))
  - 3. Second-hand smoke is more harmful than mainstream smoke.
    - a. Sidestream smoke, smoke coming out of the end of the cigarette, has higher concentrations of carcinogens than mainstream smoke, the smoke inhaled by the smoker. ([www.yourhealth.com](http://www.yourhealth.com))

- b. Second-hand smoke contains both mainstream and sidestream smoke, so it can be very dangerous.

Transition: Now that you know what second-hand smoke does, I will tell you some of the solutions that are being done to help alleviate the problem.

B. *Solution/Satisfaction Step*: What is being done about second-hand smoke?

1. California has banned smoking in restaurants.
  - a. A successful campaign is one that not only keeps people from smoking, but also one that protects nonsmokers from second-hand smoke by creating an environment that encourages smokers to cut down or quit.
  - b. California laws proved it is possible to reduce the usage of tobacco and as a result decrease a nonsmoker's exposure to second-hand smoke, without hurting food industry revenues. (Repace et al.) (Hyland et al.)
2. Many other states are adopting California's new restrictions or coming up with their own solutions.
  - a. As of December 31, 1998, 47 states restrict smoking to some extent, 30 states restrict smoking in restaurants, and Utah and Vermont completely prohibit smoking in restaurants. (CDC)
  - b. Seventeen state laws penalize both the restaurant and the smoker for the first violation, five penalize the restaurant only, and five penalize the smoker only; 71% of state laws restricting smoking designate an enforcement authority. ([www.cancercare.mb.ca](http://www.cancercare.mb.ca)).
3. Individual restaurant owners can make a difference in the fight against second-hand smoke as well.
  - a. Many individuals are making their restaurants smoke-free, as a request from nonsmoking customers, even though their state has not adopted new laws yet.
  - b. Restaurants are installing separate ventilation systems for smoking and nonsmoking sections in the restaurant to try to please both the smoker and the nonsmoker.

Transition: I've told you what most states are doing to provide a solution, now I will tell you what it would be like if everyone adopted these new laws.

C. *Visualization Step*: What would a world without second-hand smoke be like?

1. Eating in restaurants will be more peaceful and healthy and you would not have to worry about what is in the air, you would only smell the good food.
2. Socializing in bars and pubs will be much more fun, you will not come home coughing and smelling of cigarettes unless you step outside to have one yourself.

### III. Conclusion

- A. *Summary of Main Points*: Today I talked to you about a few of the problems of second-hand smoke. I also told you about the laws that are being passed to fight second-hand smoke. Finally, I told you how great it would be to live in a world without second-hand smoke.

- B. *Call to Action Step*: Even you can help solve the second-hand smoke problem.
1. Make your car and home smoke-free.
  2. Support smoke-free establishments and encourage those that permit smoking to think about banning it.
  3. Contact your town council, congressman, or the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation.
- C. *Close with Impact*: Being able to breathe clean air, free from harmful, irritating smoke is a serious issue for everyone. At home, at work, and in other public places, it is important to speak up about how dangerous smoking can be to smokers and nonsmokers alike.

### References

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