

Attachment I: Prohibition Arguments

Directions: Have the students cut out the list of reasons/evidence. Then the students should sort the reasons/evidence by something they have in common. The idea they have in common should become one of the claims that could be made in an argument in favor of Prohibition.

Alcohol linked to wife beating and child abuse

Industrialists concerned about the impact of drinking on labor productivity

Prohibition seemed patriotic during World War I
(grain should be used to make bread not liquor)

Alcoholism was cut by 80% by 1921 from pre-war levels

Alcohol-related crime dropped markedly

Alcohol consumption declined dramatically during prohibition by 30% to 50%

Deaths from cirrhosis fell

Half of the nation's homicides today are related to alcohol

Alcohol is still linked to domestic violence today

Directions: Have the students cut out the list of reasons/evidence. Then the students should sort the reasons/evidence by something they have in common. The idea they have in common should become one of the claims that could be made in an argument against Prohibition.

Many ethnic Americans viewed drinking beer and wine as part of their culture

The wording of the 18th Amendment only banned the making and selling of alcohol illegal, not possessing and drinking it

The government only had 2,500 agents enforcing laws

Cost of enforcing was too high

Lack of convictions on those that were caught breaking laws

Deaths from bad liquor rose

The number of speakeasies rose dramatically

Bootlegging increased and organized crime grew

Homicides increased in cities due to gang wars and drunkenness

Prohibition hurt the nation's brewing industry

Failed to eliminate drinking and made drinking popular among the young
