

The New Banning Smoking Policy

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Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the new policy that starting from 1st 2007 the government will ban smoking in all eating places. Personally, I welcome this practice for the following reasons.

To begin with, I would like to talk about the advantages of banning smoking in all eating places. As we all know, smoking does no good to our health. All it brings to us are just disadvantages. Smoking can lead to serious health problems, like lung cancer, because of the chemicals inside the cigarettes. Moreover, smoking does not only have adverse affects on smokers, but also non-smokers. Non-smokers inevitably suffer from second-hand smoking which is also harmful to us. Second-hand smoke is the complex mixture of chemicals generated during the burning of tobacco products. The immediate effects of passive smoking include eye irritation, headache, cough and sore throat. Just 30 minutes of exposure to tobacco smoke is enough to reduce coronary blood flow. If smoking is banned in all eating places, we will not suffer from passive smoking easily. The environment will be better and the air will be fresher. It is good for both workers and customers in eating places. I am sure that public health will improve greatly if such a new policy is implemented.

For the government, banning smoking in all eating places is a worthwhile practice. Every year, the amount of money spent on medial care for patients with diseases caused by smoking is enormous. According to a research conducted by the University of Hong Kong, the estimate for expenses on health care in connection with smoking-related diseases is \$1.9 billions. Smoking costs Hong Kong over \$5 billion every year. If smoking is banned in eating places, it will discourage people from smoking. Thus, public health can be improved and less expense will be incurred on treating diseases caused by smoking. More importantly, the money saved can be invested into many other meaningful projects, like medical research or recreational facilities for teenagers.

A coin has two sides, so does the issue of carrying out the new policy. Now, let's talk about the disadvantages of implementing the law. For the owners of eating places, banning smoking will reduce their business because there are a huge number of smokers going to the eating places. If the new policy is implemented, fewer smokers will go to indoor restaurants. As a result, the business of eating places, and consequently, the livelihood of the people working in these places, will be badly affected.

And for the government, the tax from tobacco will be reduced because some people will give up smoking. As the new law is carried out, the demand for cigarettes will be reduced. Thus, the government's revenue will decrease.

At last, I am pretty sure that the benefits of implementing this policy outweigh the disadvantages. I hope this policy can be carried out smoothly. Implementing this policy is not a piece of cake. It needs the support of both the public and the government. Real understanding only comes when we put ourselves into other people's shoes and see things from a different perspective. So if you are a smoker, please be considerate. We have the right to say "NO" to second-hand smoking.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Teacher's Feedback : An essay with good readability. You have presented the advantages of implementing the policy, with specific examples and evidences. The arguments run logically and the essay concludes with a persuasive ending. You have employed topic sentences to bring out the gist of each paragraph. Quite good cohesion is also achieved with the use of connecting words and phrases. You usually show a consistent performance in essay writing. I would like to encourage you to keep on polishing up your expressions with more extensive reading, including reading exemplary articles, newspapers, magazines and story books. (Miss Chan Siu Ying)

Food For Thought : This issue concerns the well-being of all Hong Kong citizens. When this essay was written, there were still a few weeks to go before the implementation. Now when you read this essay, you may as well ponder over the extent of success of this policy so far. How has it affected you, your family and your friends? Are these effects for the better or for the worse? You are also encouraged to write a letter to *SCMP* or the *Young Post* to write about your experiences and views on this policy.