Jarrett Wolske is a graduate of Harry D. Jacobs High School, and he is currently a biology major at NIU. His interests include cooking, learning foreign languages, Spanish and Italian in particular, and enjoying the splendor of nature. Jarrett is a member of the Hispanic Student Association, and Lambda Sigma Society, and has served as a tutor and volunteered for Alternative Spring Break. His career goal is to attend medical school, and eventually start his own practice. Jarrett believes that the annotated bibliography, “I Dare You,” which he wrote for Andrea Fryling’s English 104 class, is pertinent to college-level students, because during their early days in college, students are “confronted with choices about alcohol and consumption.”
Every year, several young adults flock to institutions of higher education to expand their knowledge and brighten their futures; yet, beyond the glamour of the university, lives a real danger. Temptations are plentiful, especially when it comes to alcohol consumption. Even the most pristine person can become an absolute drunkard. The dilemma lies in the fact that peer pressure forces a student to drink to fit in. Some may argue that alcoholism is genetic or that excessive drinking is fueled by internal conflicts. This is true in some cases; however, alcohol consumption in college generally stems from the environment and peer pressure. The best solution to this problem is to form a coalition of state universities that can lobby for zoning laws that prohibit the sale of liquor near college campuses. This would make it harder for college students to obtain alcohol, and if access to alcohol is limited, then fewer students will drink. Thus, fewer students will feel pressured to drink to fit in.

The research outlined below indicates that peer pressure, which plays on the student’s desire to fit in and make friends, is one of the greatest factors in influencing alcohol consumption. Additional research regarding zoning laws is also provided. While some of the sources below do not give detailed information about zoning laws or college coalitions, they do provide research that would support the implementation of zoning laws. One of the most interesting pieces of data collected during the research is about the college drinking age. Many proponents for lowering the legal age of consuming alcohol use Europe as an example. However, European young adults have alcohol binge drinking and dependency rates that are double those of young adults in the United States. Most of the research collected is scientific, which supports the thesis with numerous statistics, studies, and research.

To rate these articles, I used a school grading system, ranging from “A” to “F.” An “A” grade represents an excellent resource that is credible and provides evidence to support its thesis. On the other hand, a worthy counter-argument can also merit an “A.” A “B” is slightly deficient: the

* The A-F rating scale appeared in the original document, but 3 does not appear in this published version.
source may not be quite as credible. A mediocre grade would be a “C,” which means that the information provided in the article neither benefits nor hurts my argument. A grade of “D” would include a source that does not support the thesis, is not credible, and/or is irrelevant to the topic. Finally, an “F” is an article that fulfills none of the criteria.


The website offers a variety of ways to diminish underage drinking: for example, town hall meetings, taxes on alcoholic beverages, and zoning laws. Although this website offers many ways to decrease drinking, it provides no statistics to support the thesis. In a persuasive paper, despite an author’s plea to the reader’s emotions, facts are necessary to convince someone. It is a website that could not be included into the paper because of its lack of depth and information. Further, the layout of the website tends to diminish the credibility of the facts presented.


In this article, Crawford and Novak argue that drinking is proportional to a student’s environment. Low self-esteem and social acceptance are some of the reasons people succumb to peer pressure. The authors present scientific research data from a study regarding student drinkers. The information concerning ways students fall into peer pressure supports their thesis very well. However, they fail to reach a larger, more general audience because, while the results of the study are helpful to the argument, too many statistics can be confusing and monotonous.


The authors of this article blame the environment for drinking on campus. They argue that a change in zoning laws and community-wide programs can lower alcohol consumption. They cite a specific case where a change in zoning laws, community-wide programs, and increased law
enforcement did, in fact, lower alcohol-related arrests. Once the zoning laws are changed, it makes it difficult for students to obtain alcohol, which lessens the number of students drinking, and in turn, those who feel pressured to drink. The only drawback to the article is that zoning laws were not the only solution to the campus drinking problem. Although other solutions are helpful, they are not discussed in this paper.


The article discusses the difference between light drinkers and heavy drinkers and the social effects experienced by both. The researchers tested a group of heavy drinkers and a group of light drinkers; they discovered that the amount of alcohol consumed correlates directly with the amount of alcohol available in the social surroundings. The outcomes of these studies provide scientific evidence to support the thesis. The authors also rely on other sources to support the notion that peer pressure leads to more students drinking. The information provided in this article plays to the logos of the reader.


The researchers who authored this article propose alcohol control policies to limit consumption. Based on the findings of their research, they argue that ease of availability and amount of advertising raised the rate of alcohol consumption. This article supports the notion that zoning laws would be an effective measure to reduce student drinking rates. For example, if ease of availability raises alcohol consumption, then it follows logically that zoning laws limiting availability would decrease consumption. However, the article neither specifically discusses the issue of peer pressure nor specifically advocates for the necessity of zoning laws; therefore, these issues must be inferred from the information provided.

This article is a guideline for evaluating alcohol prevention policies. Identifying specific goals and reviewing the evaluation criterion are some examples the authors offer. While the article could be helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of coalitions to decrease alcohol consumption and other preventative measures once they are implemented, most of the information provided on this website is not relevant to the immediate goals of my essay. Further, the website does not discuss peer pressure, zoning laws or coalitions.


The article concerns Brief Motivational Interventions (BMI) and the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS), which are initiatives to stop the spread of alcohol consumption on campus. However, the writers of the article contend that study participants suffering from social anxiety disorder (SAD) would skew the results of both BMI and BASICS. Thus, a test of the initiatives was conducted with SAD individuals. In addition to its own research, this article cites other sources that argue that peer pressure, especially among those with a social disorder, heightens the chances of alcohol consumption. Initiatives such as BMI and BASICS are possible solutions to add into my paper. However, this article has a narrower focus, concerning only those with social disorders, compared to my paper, which is more about young adults in general who succumb to peer pressure.


In 1984 the alcohol drinking age was set at 21. Since then, debates have occurred regarding lowering the drinking age. The authors of this article discovered that research has shown a drop in alcohol dependency and alcohol-related fatalities since the drinking age was raised to 21. The article is a precursor to the zoning law solution. Such information could be presented in my paper as proof that a higher drinking age can decrease alcohol consumption among young adults, which would then lead to the proposal of a change in zoning laws as a solution to excess alcohol consumption on campus. The article received an average rating because
it does not add any new information to support my thesis. The research in the article can simply aid in proving that zoning laws could lead to less alcohol consumption because lawmakers would make it harder to obtain alcohol.


This article is based on Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), which focuses on the reasoning behind an adolescent’s desire to drink. The article examines a series of research-based writing with a detailed hypothesis, procedure, and results. This article is important because the test results affirm my thesis. The students tested were young adolescents from middle schools, rather than college-level students; however, the results still support the notion that peer pressure leads to alcohol consumption.


Dowdall blames drinking largely on social reasons because people attempt to fit in with their surroundings. He advocates for communication and stricter laws. This book is extremely useful because it provides enough information to support the view that peer pressure leads to alcohol consumption. For instance, it is devoid of empty rhetoric and/or opinions and contains scientific information and statistics. Additionally, the author offers remedies to the problem of excess alcohol consumption, one of which includes stricter zoning laws.