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Portfolio

## Creating My Own Style of Writing

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When I began my freshman year at Washington State University last fall, I didn't realize how difficult being world class face to face could possibly be. I also didn't think I would be able to write a ten page research paper, compile over a dozen sources, and create an autobiography to be put into one magnificent portfolio. Because of English 101, I have learned and also demonstrated many skills such as writing as a process, knowledge of conventions, rhetorical awareness, and most importantly to me, critical thinking. These methods have helped me expand my writing process this last semester, while allowing me to view writing from a completely different perspective.

or not ready yet

While in High School I was not properly educated how to apply these basic methods listed above into my papers. Mr. Tarr's English 101 course, has given me the energy and excitement I have been lacking for school since Junior High. By closely incorporating Lester's, *Composing from Sources*, books, court cases, and internet materials, I have used critical thinking in my research paper to expose Purdue Pharmaceutical's direct involvement with the excessive marketing of OxyContin. Throughout my research, I have also given various views of OxyContin from the FDA, Senate committee on health and labor, and patients, to help convey different views on the subject. Because my research paper has changed substantially from my project proposal, I have shown how to use critical thinking by identifying the actions Purdue <sup>ok</sup> Pharmaceutical needs to take, rather than exploring the fact that OxyContin is a widely abused drug.

Along with critical thinking, I have demonstrated rhetorical awareness by adapting to different audiences views of OxyContin. Throughout my research paper I

introduced views such as OxyContin's medical benefits, its addictive nature, and intermediate views that would strictly regulate and develop a new abuse resistant form of OxyContin. I also used appropriate tone in the opening of my Autobiography and my research paper. This allowed the reader to form a perspective of myself and who I am, as well as his or her view of OxyContin. Through coming to class everyday, I've shown the need and desire to improve my writing skills for the years to come. The strong dedication I have to learning has allowed me to focus my writing and establish valuable topics throughout this last semester.

This year I have also learned writing is a very slow process. It takes multiple drafts, peer reviews, and weekly trips to Mr. Tarr's office to have a paper that is at the collegiate level. Because I have written multiple drafts for works like my Autobiography, Research paper, and DNA position statement, I have been able to reflect on my previous drafts and revise them due to my extended knowledge I now have on these subjects. The writing center and my English 102 class have also helped me form a process for my papers. Hearing their input while narrowing down my sources, has allowed me to demonstrate my ability to reflect on my own writing process, while critically revising my works.

I have been working on my knowledge of conventions this entire semester. Whether it was summarizing a source, or formatting the paragraphs in my research paper, I had to develop skills to structure my papers based on the MLA format. This also included properly citing all of my sources so they could be referred back to when read. If you correctly use conventions like I did in my research paper, you will see it is very easy to understand. My knowledge of conventions has been one of the hardest challenges for

me this year. By referring to Lester's book and constantly questioning myself, I have continuously developed my knowledge of conventions. Although it is difficult, it is just another one of the steps I have to practice to become an excellent writer.

Because of my new and improved writing style, I can use all of the knowledge I've developed this semester as my platform for collegiate writing. Mr. Tarr has been a valuable encyclopedia of knowledge which has helped me access new forms of research through Griffin, our WSU libraries, and most importantly myself. I have also taken away with me the phrase from the beginning of the semester "know thyself". This was the first and most important lesson I learned in English 101, because without knowledge of ourselves, we are lost, and in turn cannot know anything else.

3/22/05

English 101  
Autobiography

On a crisp April first morning in 1986, my mother was lying bedridden praying for the birth of her son. Whether it was divine intervention or the kinship of all living things, a miracle was born in the great city of Helena, Montana that morning. Surrounded by my mother, father and two sisters, Jennifer and Stephanie, I was brought into a loving and caring family that could only be described like a scene out of a cheesy Christmas movie.

In my first year of life I became very sick with a rare illness called Kawasaki disease. The disease caused inflammation of my blood vessels in my coronary arteries and a very high 106 degree fever which blocked much of the blood flow to my heart. The disease also caused my entire body to swell up and my puffy lips to turn strawberry red. I was sent to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where I was treated for my illness and made a full recovery. After a month in the hospital I was back with my family in Montana. At the time, I was too young to understand or even know what was going on, but now when I think about it I can only thank God and the doctors for allowing me to continue my journey through life.

Growing up I was a very happy child. I always had friends, that is, until my dad's job with Schwan's frozen foods caused us to pack up and move away time and time again. I can't complain about moving, whether it was to Portland, Oregon; Marshall, Minnesota; Minneapolis, Minnesota or to my current residence in Spokane, Washington, life has always gotten better every time we've moved. It's difficult being the new kid in school and leaving your friends behind, but I wouldn't be here writing my first English 101 paper if everything didn't happen for a reason.

I have always been a very athletic person. In my youth I played Y.M.C.A. football, baseball, basketball, and soccer. In high school I took part in football and golf. I was never the

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English 101  
Autobiography

best athlete on the field but always gave my best effort whether we won or lost. Sports have given me some of my finest memories, from two undefeated seasons of flag football, an undefeated freshman football team, to my seventh grade baseball team that lost every single game we played. The smell of the gridiron, the perfection of the diamond, and the sound of sneakers on the hardwood has always brought me back for more. I've always viewed sports as my outlet, whether it's playing them or enjoying them from the stands, I'm just glad that I'm physically able to still enjoy them.

My other passion reached its pinnacle when I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at age 17. Boy Scouts was filled with fun activities and camping trips that have taught me lifelong lessons and morals I will never forget. I also try to follow the Boy Scout Law in my daily life. It states, "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent". To me these words are more than a list, but a lifestyle I try to incorporate into mine. I have to thank my parents for letting me be involved in such a positive organization and for always supporting me every step of the way.

I have many hobbies other than organized activities like sports and Boy Scouts. My favorite past times are, hunting, snowboarding, and playing Frisbee. I've been hunting with my dad since I was 12. Every year over Thanksgiving he and I go Elk hunting at our ranch in Montana in hopes of seeing a magnificent bull elk . We also spend the fall hunting for pheasant and other upland game birds. I've only been snowboarding for 4 years now, but I can ride with the best of them. As long as we're not hitting the biggest kickers at the terrain park, I'll be ok. I love to go snowboarding because it's a day long event. Not everywhere in the world can you find as good of mountains like the ones here in the Northwest. Very soon after I received my

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English 101  
Autobiography

license I began to drive up to go snowboarding in the mountains. On one occasion I was pulled over and given a very expensive reckless driving charge. Under Washington State's graduated license program, I was given one more chance to not make a mistake. For the rest of my teenage years I learned to drive with a cautious eye and a soft foot. The most recent hobby I picked up is throwing the Frisbee with my best friend and roommate, Colin. There is nothing better on a warm summer evening than to toss around the Frisbee and get a little bit of exercise while enjoying a couple of laughs. I love Frisbee because when you're throwing it around everybody else wants to play. Occasionally we meet some really fun people who share our love for Frisbee, as well.

So far I have had only two jobs. My first was at Taco Bell in Spokane. I loved working at a taco joint! This was my high school job for two and a half years of my life. I slaved over a hot grill preparing vicious bean burritos for the common folk. When I graduated and was accepted into this fine university, I had to abandon my bell family and start looking for another job in Pullman. Between semesters this year I was hired to work for the Village Center Movie Theater. I know starting a new job will be rough, but climbing the corporate ladder to success isn't easy.

If you get to know me, you will find out that I am a very energetic and fun person to be around. I try to have a very positive attitude in whatever I'm doing. Sometimes I have a temper, but that's only because I am such a competitive person. After living with three women for my entire life, I've learned to take my time and just relax because women, much like life can become very difficult at times. I feel that you should laugh as much as you can every day. People take things far too seriously, if they would only laugh a little then they would feel much more at ease.

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English 101  
Autobiography

I try to be as good of a person as I can. I feel you are rewarded for all the good things you do, because you are always being watched.

Coming to college has helped me develop my own personality. It has also given me many exciting new experiences like living on my own, dorm life, and as sad as it sounds, doing my own laundry. My life is constantly changing and evolving with every choice I make. To exceed in the future I will have to trust my instincts and evaluate all of my decisions. I hope with the hard work and dedication I'm putting forth, I will be able to learn many new things and have wonderful experiences to look back upon when I am old and gray.



### OxyContin: Purdue Pharmaceutical's addiction to money

Since OxyContin's introduction into the pharmaceutical world in 1995 it has been praised as a miracle cure as well as a deadly street drug that is highly lethal (Committee on Energy and Commerce, 3). The pain pill OxyContin, according to the Health, Education, and Labor Committee is a synthetic time released medication which contains large levels of OxyCodone. OxyCodone is an opiate similar to the drug Morphine which in turn creates a euphoric high comparable to Heroin (Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Drugs, 72). On the street OxyContin is referred to as Oxy or O.C. and can be sold for up to \$80 a pill. While OxyContin can be found virtually on any inner city street corner, the only company that has a patent to manufacture the product is Purdue Pharmaceutical. For the past ten years Purdue has been the leading pioneer in OxyContin based research on pain and its associated treatments. While revolutionizing pain management for sufferers of chronic pain and cancer patients, Purdue Pharmaceutical has also heavily advertised and marketed the narcotic to doctors and pharmacists who prescribe OxyContin to patients who do not need it. With Purdue's patent set to expire on April 16, 2013 (Harris), the FDA must implement new regulations concerning OxyContin distribution as well as creation of a new abuse resistant form of OxyContin. If the FDA follows this course of action, OxyContin will soon become obsolete in the pharmaceutical industry while being surpassed by other safe non-abusive OxyCodone based pain medications.

In the February 12, 2002 hearing of the Senate Health, Labor, and Pensions committee, the effects of OxyContin were assessed while focusing on federal, state, and local efforts to decrease misuse of this product. An important statistic acknowledged at this hearing

was the study released from the DEA, stating OxyContin was blamed in the overdose deaths of 282 people over a 19 month period from 2000 to 2001 (Senate Health and Labor Committee, 2). These are not the kinds of numbers that can easily be ignored. Another study from the Nation Institute on Drug Abuse stated that 4 million Americans reported to be currently using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes (NIDA, 2). With the illegal use of prescription drugs including OxyContin on the rise, there's only a limited time to reduce the use and abuse as well as allowing current patients the extensive treatment they deserve (7).

Americans hold many different views on the prescription drug OxyContin. Thousand of patients as well as doctors like Allan Gordon feel OxyContin is needed to survive and stay mobile ([www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUS/News/2004/Dec02\\_04.htm](http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUS/News/2004/Dec02_04.htm)), while many patients and drug addicts who use it acknowledge its abusive characteristics and the physical dependency. The government formed Committee on Health, Education, and Labor feel it is the manufacturers fault for excessive marketing, and that proper steps must be taken to regulate its distribution (Health and Labor Committee, 5). One of the strongest advocates of OxyContin is John Stewart, executive vice president and general manager of Purdue Pharma. With the help of Dr. Allan Gordon of Mount Sinai Hospital, Purdue has created a pain dependency program to help understand and treat pain management for prescription drugs. John Stewart stated, "The ultimate target of this partnership is to ensure that patients in need can be treated effectively, while also reducing to the fullest extent possible the misuse of and addiction to all prescription analgesics." ([www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUs/News/2004/Dec02\\_04.htm](http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUs/News/2004/Dec02_04.htm)). Even though this program sounds impressive, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the National Institute on Drug Abuse feel

these steps are not enough. Strict measures such as government regulations and educational programs for physicians are needed if OxyContin is continued to be produced.

Although these methods to successfully market OxyContin are progressing in the right direction, Americans like Francis Tagbo believe OxyContin needs to be taken off of the market entirely (personal interview, Tagbo). Opponents and many drug addicts alike believe taking OxyContin off the market is the only way for Purdue pharmaceutical and users to clean up their acts. OxyContin is a Schedule two narcotic, which means it provides the maximum amount of medication possible, as well as having very adverse effects on its users (Committee on Energy and Commerce). A Schedule one narcotic is considered to have no recognized medical purpose and is labeled as an illegal substance. OxyContin's high abuse level demonstrates how important the war on Purdue Pharmaceutical's monopoly of the OxyContin drug market really is. Opponents of OxyContin have a very powerful reason to be so passionate about its removal. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have been caught up in its deadly web whether they used it legally or illegally (Professor T.). Not only have the patients suffered, but the families and friends who watched their loved ones get caught up in OxyContin's grasp through snorting, injecting, or swallowing it. Whether an advocate or an opponent of OxyContin, it's obvious to see the dilemma dropped upon the Federal drug administration, families, and communities alike who are all trying to make America a safer place.

While there are thousands of Americans obviously addicted to OxyContin, we have to look at the much larger picture of effective pain treatment for chronic pain and cancer patients. Last year in 2004 OxyContin was the number one prescribed Schedule two narcotic on the market, filling a record 7.2 million prescriptions in 2001, its allowed millions of

Americans to have their pain free life back (Amman, 3). For many it has been viewed as a blessing for their suffering of moderate to severe chronic pain. The American Pain Foundation estimates 50 million Americans suffer from chronic pain, while much of it is under treated due to doctor's apprehension to prescribing OxyContin (NIDA, 8). What needs to be understood is that OxyContin is not a street drug in most cities and communities. Almost all of the patients prescribed OxyContin are given it for a legitimate and very effective treatment of their pain. The issue with OxyContin is as a pill it can and will continue to provide sufficient pain relief, but as a powder it brings complete euphoria which is not a safe or effective way to treat pain or emotional problems.

While many patients do not wrongfully use OxyContin, there are still those who suffer from its addictive grasp. One study from the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported out of 38 chronic pain patients who used OxyContin for four to seven years, only two became addicted to the prescription medication (Ammana, 13). While many opioids are not as strong as OxyContin, we must assess the need for its powerful treatment of pain for millions of Americans in need. A Seattle, Washington writer Geov Parrish who has taken OxyContin for seven years wrote, "OxyContin is a narcotic, and I am "addicted" to it, in the sense that if I don't take it I'd get nasty withdrawal symptoms. I also need and am "addicted" to a number of other prescribed drugs, and to food, water, oxygen, and my sweetie (Parrish). What America needs to understand is how necessary OxyContin is for pain sufferers throughout a day to day basis. If an abuse resistant form of OxyContin can be manufactured that will not produce such adverse effects on its user, patients like Geov Parrish will be able to continue to use OxyContin without having worries of addiction. Until then, OxyContin is still being prescribed to patients until Purdue Pharma can create an abuse resistant pill that will not

release OxyCodone as fast when crushed, swallowed, or injected.

There seems to be no easy answer to the ever present issue of OxyContin. If it was reassigned as a Schedule one narcotic there would be no medicinal use for its pain relief purposes, and if this issue were to be left alone, Purdue Pharma, legitimate patients, and drug trafficker's would be the only ones benefiting from its detrimental effects. While communities, families, friends, and addicts of OxyContin would see a horrible downward spiral into the pit OxyContin has created in America. The most realistic view is to regulate and protect OxyContin from being abused even more than it is today. This viewpoint can and will be made possible through a nationwide war on illegal users and Purdue Pharmaceutical itself.

To help develop a nation that is not dependent and addicted to the prescription drug OxyContin, we first must look at the source of where it comes from. Purdue Pharma has created a pain relief empire through the sale and highly addictive nature of OxyContin which they created and hold the all important patent to. The Drug Enforcement Agency stated "Purdue Pharma has contributed to OxyContin's disproportionate abuse by marketing it as less prone to abuse than similar drugs" like morphine and heroin (Committee on Health and Education, 8). Purdue's actions surrounding the explosive marketing to physicians, pharmacists, and many others in the medical field, has introduced many questions about Purdue's extensive promotion of OxyContin. Including Purdue's education or lack thereof to physicians and their power to properly prescribe OxyContin to patients who truly need the highly addictive substance. Without proper knowledge of this "miracle drug," doctors are more likely to suggest OxyContin to patients who would only need a less addictive form of OxyCodone in the first place. In turn the patient could possibly misuse the prescription or

live without the pills and sell them illegally for a very large profit. The aggressive marketing and promotion of OxyContin to pharmacists and physicians by Purdue Pharma is unethical and immoral. In many circumstances the question that should be asked would be, is the abuse and misuse of OxyContin by Purdue Pharmaceutical as wrong as the illegal sale and profit of drug dealers on the street?

In 2002 a federal judge stated that the plaintiffs in a motion to impose restrictions on the access to OxyContin had "failed to produce any evidence showing that the defendant's (Purdue Pharma's) marketing, promotional, or distributional practices have ever caused even one tablet of OxyContin to be inappropriately prescribed or diverted" (Committee on Health and Education, 5). If Purdue Pharma had properly informed and educated physicians about the detrimental effects of OxyContin, then every pill prescribed would be needed by the patient to relieve them from their chronic pains. It is because of Purdue's unfortunate marketing actions, promotional practices, and distributional methods, that we have such an epidemic of patients using, people abusing, and corrupt doctors who write prescriptions for those who doctor shop. It has taken far more than just Purdue Pharma and uneducated doctors to create the nationwide epidemic which we see in our country today, but like everything else this predicament has a beginning and an end which will eventually conclude with Purdue taking responsibility for its actions.

Over 600 lawsuits from patients prescribed OxyContin have been filed claiming it was not necessary for their pain and only resulted in adverse effects and addiction (Harris). Patients across America have begun filing these legal battles along with an on going legal investigation into Purdue Pharma's excessive marketing of OxyContin without stressing its addictive nature. Hal Rogers a Representative of Kentucky asked the General Accounting

Office to investigate the marketing of the “miracle prescription drug” OxyContin. Unlike the pharmaceutical company Purdue, Mr. Rogers not only wants patients to be treated effectively, but for Purdue to safely distribute, manufacture, market, and prescribe OxyContin to patients with forms of severe cancer and chronic pain (Committee of Health and Education, 3).

OxyContin is far too cemented in our society to be taken off of the market. Millions of Americans depend on it to help them through difficult times of pain. The OxyContin prescribed on the market today comes in four different milligram doses, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, and the most powerful 80mg. While they are all effective in treating pain, the 40mg and the 80mg doses are the pills most commonly abused by patients and drug addicts. Purdue Pharma did release a 160mg pill onto the market in 2002 but quickly removed it because of likelihood for abuse while only accounting for 1% of total sales (Ammann, 9). Francis Tagbo of Spokane, Washington recently had four of his discs fused in his lower back. For his medication he was given a prescription to 10mg OxyContin tablets as well as other pain medications (Personal Interview, Tagbo). His surgery kept him out of work for a little over a month and was a very painful experience. He was given the lowest milligram dosage possible of OxyContin. When asked about prescribing higher dosage medications, his response was, “It doesn’t seem necessary to prescribe a higher dose of OxyContin to a patient when these lower milligram tablets work sufficiently with other medicines prescribed” (Tagbo). Stronger tablets can only leave the patient in a longer medicated haze which in many cases results in addiction, sleep deprivation, vomiting, dizziness and a dependency for the drug that can not easily be broken (Committee on Health and Education, 14).

If the larger 80mg tablets were taken off of the market, the illegal use and sale of OxyContin would dramatically be reduced. Across the United States the illegal drug trade has

benefited from the over production and marketing of higher milligram tablets of OxyContin (Ellement). Because OxyContin is a relatively new phenomenon, it has always been very closely observe. Since 1995 the illegal use of OxyContin has risen 500% in the state of Maine, as well as accounting for a jump from 2% to 12% of people in rehabilitation treatment centers nationwide (Committee on Health and Education, 4). A November 12, 2004 article in the Boston Globe detailed a multi-state OxyContin ring that was recently busted by the DEA. This ring involved gang members, pharmacists, and college students working together to distribute the drug. When the police arrested just one of the twenty suspects they found 20,000 OxyContin pills with an estimated street value of \$1.6 million dollars (Ellement). While my paper is not about the illegal drug trade of OxyContin, it is important to understand just how much Oxy is on the market today, and how Purdue Pharma's actions created a whirlwind of abuse due to their over production and marketing of a \$2 billion dollar a year miracle drug.

Although the Food and Drug Administration has made an effort to curb abuse of OxyContin, many of their attempts have still come up short. After being fired upon by consumers, and the DEA, the Federal Drug Administration beefed up their regulations by detailing OxyContin's addictive nature and labeling it with a "black box warning," which is the strongest the FDA allows ([opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm](http://opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm)). The black box warning is a step in the right direction, but still many patients who use OxyContin simply will not take note of a new label on the same bottle of pills they've been taking for years. Besides, a warning label will not help an addict regulate their dosage or stop them from excessively using the pills more than the directions tell them to.

While examining the abuse of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, the FDA, and the DEA,



need to join together to form an alliance against the abuse and misuse of OxyContin. Instead of having big brother looking over Purdue's shoulder at all times, the FDA and Purdue need to work together to create short term regulations for OxyContin until the development of an abuse-resistant formulation can be safely distributed. Regulations such as Purdue's partnering with hospitals nationwide will allow for patients to understand what OxyContin is and how it works long before they are prescribed the pain medication. Perhaps the strongest move on Purdue's part would be to take the 80mg tablets of OxyContin temporarily off of the market. Since these tablets are the strongest form of OxyContin, and most abused by pill junkies and patients, it would be very interesting to see the effects 80mg tablets have on Purdue Pharmaceuticals OxyContin use and abuse related data. Since patients could be prescribed a smaller dosage of OxyContin, there would be much less risk of abuse and misuse of a smaller milligram tablet compared to an 80mg tablet.

✓ While there are many issues to be discussed about OxyContin, the most important step necessary for Purdue Pharmaceutical to initiate in the future is their development of a new era of pain medication. Since July 22, 2002 Purdue has slowly began to create an abuse-resistant formulation of OxyContin to be safely distributed to patients

([opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycotin.htm](http://opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycotin.htm)). Although Purdue has spent over \$300 million dollars on the development of Remoxy an OxyCodone based pain reliever, they have stated they will not be able to complete clinical development for at least 2 to 3 years (Medicine and Law Weekly). While a new form of OxyContin is in sight, Purdue Pharma has deliberately set back production and development of this new age opiate pain medication which would revolutionize the pharmaceutical world (Professor T.). While the technology to block opioids euphoric high is still in its early stages, and in many cases unavailable, Purdue has still taken

the liberties with scientists in an attempt to demonstrate their development of a new form of OxyContin ([opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm](http://opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm)).

In January 2005 Purdue Pharmaceutical introduced the testing of an abuse-resistant form of OxyCodone called Remoxy which in the future could possibly replace the highly addictive OxyContin (Medicine and Law Weekly). Even though they are still in the testing stage of experimentation, Remoxy has the potential to deter oxycodone abuse since it absorbs much more slowly than Oxycontin when crushed and consumed (2). In a study conducted by pain therapeutics on Remoxy compared to OxyContin, Remoxy had significantly less of an effect on its user than OxyContin. Although very far from FDA approval, this new drug brings hope to every person who feels passionately about deterring the abusive effects of OxyContin. While Purdue Pharmaceutical works on this abuse-resistant form of OxyContin, there are still those people who are using and abusing the current forms of OxyContin. If the Food and Drug Administration can comprehend the exigency for a new form of OxyContin from Purdue Pharma, they can both work together to provide far more resources and intensive testing to understand its effects and abuse-resistant chemical make-up. With this information Purdue will be able to provide Remoxy to patients suffering from chronic pain while slowly taking the current form of OxyContin off of the market. If Remoxy is approved by the FDA it will signify the beginning of a new age of pain medication which will allow patients and Purdue Pharma to safely consume and distribute Remoxy knowing without a doubt it does not have an addictive nature.

For the current status of OxyContin to be changed, substantial efforts towards the quantity of the pill, its distribution, and research and testing of Remoxy must be made. We only have to look at the short term affects of OxyContin to see how detrimental it can be to

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Mr. Tarr  
Research Paper

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society, and how it can easily devastate humanity. The epidemic of OxyContin is far from over, while the war over this deadly narcotic is still being fought, in many cases it can be easily found on the internet along with other prescription drugs. With OxyContin so easy to get, it is no wonder why deaths and overdoses are a daily occurrence (Pettit). Through the efforts of Purdue Pharmaceutical, doctors, pharmacists, and patients across America there is still hope to stop the spread of this evil drug, while creating a new form of opiate pain medication that will safely allow patients to get the relief they need and deserve.

Nice work

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Mr. Tarr  
Position Statement

Eng 101  
14 Apr 2005

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## OxyContin: Purdue Pharmaceuticals addiction to money



Since OxyContin's introduction into the pharmaceutical world in 1995 it has been praised as a miracle cure as well as a deadly street drug that is highly lethal. ~~Because of Purdue Pharmaceuticals efforts to widely distribute their product OxyContin, they have created a whirlwind of controversy because of its addictive and abusive nature.~~ The Committee on Health, Education, and Labor states that the pain pill "OxyContin is a synthetic time released medication which contains large levels of OxyCodone." OxyCodone is an opiate that is similar to the drug Morphine which in turn creates a euphoric high similar to Heroin (Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Drugs, 72). In the street world, OxyContin is referred to as Oxy or O.C. and can be sold for up to \$80 a pill. While you can find OxyContin virtually any where on the street, the only company that has a patent to manufacture the product is Purdue Pharmaceutical. For the past ten years Purdue has been the leading pioneers in the research on persistent pain and its associated treatments. While revolutionizing pain treatment for sufferers of chronic pain and cancer patients, Purdue Pharma has also been accused of highly advertising and marketing the drug to doctors and pharmacists who unknowingly prescribe highly addictive OxyContin to their patients. With "Purdue's patent set to expire on April 16, 2013" (Drug Industry Daily, 1), we need to begin new regulations on the distribution and manufacturing of OxyContin, so that the \$2 billion dollars in annual sales it generates is coming from patients who truly need there prescription.

In a recent 2002 study released from the Drug Enforcement Agency, OxyContin was blamed in the overdose deaths of 282 people over a 19 month period. (Health and Labor

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Mr. Tarr  
Position Statement

Committee, 2) These are not the kind of number that can easily be ignored. Another study from the Nation Institute on Drug Abuse stated that 4 million Americans reported to be currently using prescription drugs for nonmedical purposes. (NIDA, 2) With the illegal use of prescription drugs including OxyContin on the rise, we have to ask ourselves, is there any way to reduce the use and abuse as well as allowing current patients the extensive treatment they need and deserve.

Americans hold many different views on the prescription drug OxyContin. Thousand of patients as well as doctors feel OxyContin is needed to survive and stay mobile, while many patients and drug addicts who use it acknowledge its abusive characteristics and the physical dependency it creates. Others like the Committee on Health, Education, and Labor feel it is the manufacturers fault for excessive marketing, and that proper steps must be taken to regulate its distribution. (Health and Labor Committee, 5) One of the strongest advocates of OxyContin is John Stewart who is the executive vice president and general manager of Purdue Pharma. With the help of Dr. Allan Gordon of Mount Sinai Hospital they have created a pain dependency program to help understand and treat pain management for prescription drugs. (cite) John Stewart stated,

The ultimate target of this partnership is to ensure that patients in need can be treated effectively, while also reducing to the fullest extent possible the misuse of and addiction to all prescription analgesics. Our goal is to support fundamental research in these areas, as part of our commitment to enhancing patient care.

([www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUs/News/2004/Dec02\\_04.htm](http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUs/News/2004/Dec02_04.htm))

Even though this program sounds spectacular, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the National Institute on Drug Abuse feel these steps are not enough. Strict measures such as

government regulations and educational programs for physicians are needed if OxyContin is continued to be produced.

Although these methods to successfully market OxyContin are progressing in the right direction, thousands of Americans believe OxyContin needs to be taken off of the market entirely. Opponents and many drug addicts alike believe this is the only way for users and ~~the~~<sup>the Purdue</sup> pharmaceutical company to clean up their acts. OxyContin is a Schedule II narcotic, which means it provides the maximum amount of medication possible, as well as having very adverse effects on its users. (DEA, Congressional testimony, 8). A Schedule I narcotic is considered to have no recognized medical purpose and is illegal such as cocaine or heroin. OxyContin's high abuse level demonstrates how important the war on Purdue Pharmaceutical monopoly of the OxyContin drug market really is. Opponents of OxyContin have a very powerful reason to be so passionate about its removal. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have been caught up in its deadly web as users of the drug whether they used it legally or illegally. Not only have the patients suffered, but also the families and friends who watched their loved ones get caught up in OxyContin's grasp through snorting, injecting, or swallowing it. Whether you are an advocate or an opponent of OxyContin, you can clearly see the dilemma that has been dropped upon the Federal drug administration, families, and communities alike.

While there are thousands of Americans obviously addicted to OxyContin, we have to look at the much larger picture of effective pain treatment for chronic pain and cancer patients. Last year in 2004, OxyContin was the number one prescribed Schedule II narcotic on the market, filling over 7.2 million prescriptions in 2001, it allowed millions of Americans to have their pain free life back. (Amman, 3). For many it has been viewed as a blessing for



patients suffering from moderate to severe chronic pain, who use it to achieve a steady relief of pain day in and day out. The American Pain Foundation estimates 50 million Americans suffer from chronic pain, while much of it is under treated due to doctor's apprehension to prescribing OxyContin. (NIDA, 8) What we have to understand is that OxyContin is not a street drug in most cities and communities. Almost all of the patients, who use OxyContin are prescribed it for a legitimate and very effective treatment of their pain. The issue with OxyContin is that as a pill it can and will continue to provide sufficient pain relief, but as a powder it brings complete euphoria which is not a safe or effective way to treat or deal with pain or emotional problems.

The underlying factor is that a very small amount of patients actually wrongfully use the drug. One study from the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported out of 38 chronic pain patients who used OxyContin for four to seven years, only two became addicted to the prescription medication. (Ammanna, 13) While many opioids are not as strong as OxyContin, we must assess the need for its powerful treatment of pain for millions of Americans in need.

A Seattle, Washington writer Geov Parrish who has taken OxyContin for seven years stated

OxyContin is a narcotic, and I am "addicted" to it, in the sense that if I don't take it I'd get nasty withdrawal symptoms... In terms of whether my body would be unhappy if I didn't ingest it, I'm also "addicted" to a number of other prescribed drugs, and to food, water, oxygen, and my sweetie. (Parrish)

What America needs to understand is how necessary OxyContin is for pain sufferers throughout a day to day basis. Because, no matter what type of drug is on the market, there will always be the few who abuse and misuse the product. Patients who abuse OxyContin in no way represent the millions of legitimate patients who are not addicted, but only depend

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on it for one use and that is living a life in comfort without agonizing over excruciating pain.

There seems to be no easy answer to the ever present issue of OxyContin. If it was reassigned as a Schedule I narcotic there would be no medicinal use for its pain relief purposes, and if this issue were to be left alone, Purdue Pharma, legitimate patients, and drug trafficker's would be the only ones benefiting from its detrimental effects. While communities, families, friends, and addicts of OxyContin would see a horrible downward spiral into the pit OxyContin has created in America. The most realistic view is to regulate and protect OxyContin from being abused even more than it is today. This viewpoint can and will be made possible through a nationwide war on illegal users and Purdue Pharmaceutical itself.

To help develop a nation that is not dependent and addicted to the prescription drug OxyContin, we first must look at the source of where it comes from. Purdue Pharma has created a pain relief empire through the sale and highly addictive nature of OxyContin which they created and hold the all important patent to. The Drug Enforcement Agency stated "Purdue Pharma has contributed to OxyContin's disproportionate abuse by marketing it as less prone to abuse than similar drugs" like morphine and heroin. (Committee on Health and Education, 8) Purdue's actions surrounding the explosive marketing to physicians, pharmacists, and many others in the medical field has introduced many questions about Purdue's extensive promotion of OxyContin. Including Purdue's education or lack thereof to physicians and their power to properly prescribe OxyContin to patients who truly need the highly addictive substance. Without proper knowledge of this "miracle drug", doctors are more likely to suggest OxyContin to patients who would only need a less addictive form of OxyCodone in the first place. In turn the patient could possibly misuse the prescription or

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live without the pills and sell them illegally for a very large profit. The aggressive marketing and promotion of OxyContin to pharmacists and physicians by Purdue Pharma is wrong. In many circumstances the question that can be asked would be, is the abuse and misuse of OxyContin by Purdue Pharmaceutical as wrong as the illegal sale and profit of drug dealers on the street?

In 2002 a federal judge stated that the plaintiffs in a motion to impose restrictions on the access to OxyContin had

Failed to produce any evidence showing that the defendant's (Purdue Pharma's) marketing, promotional, or distributional practices have ever caused even one tablet of OxyContin to be inappropriately prescribed or diverted." (Committee on Health and Education, 5)

If Purdue Pharma had properly informed and educated physicians about the detrimental effects of OxyContin, then every pill prescribed would be needed by the patient to relieve them from their chronic pains. It is because of Purdue's unfortunate marketing actions, promotional practices, and distributional methods, that we have such an epidemic of patients using, people abusing, and corrupt doctors who write prescriptions for those who doctor shop. It has taken far more than just Purdue Pharma to create the nationwide epidemic which we see in our country today, but like everything else this predicament has a beginning and an end which will hopefully conclude with Purdue taking responsibility for its actions.

Over 600 lawsuits from patients prescribed OxyContin have been filed claiming that it was not necessary for their pain and only resulted in adverse effects and addiction. Patients across America have begun filing these legal battle's along with an on going legal investigation into Purdue Pharmas excessive marketing of OxyContin without stressing its

addictive nature. Hal Rogers a Representative of Kentucky asked the General Accounting Office to investigate the marketing of the "miracle prescription drug" OxyContin. Unlike the pharmaceutical company Purdue, Mr. Rogers not only wants patients to be treated effectively, but for Purdue to safely distribute, manufacture, market, and prescribe OxyContin to patients with forms of severe cancer and chronic pain. (Committee of Health and Education, 3)

OxyContin is far too cemented in our society to be taken off of the market. Millions of Americans depend on it to help them through difficult times of pain. The OxyContin prescribed on the market today comes in four different milligram doses, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, and the most powerful 80mg. While they are all effective in treating pain, the 40mg and the 80mg doses are the pills most commonly abused by patients and drug addicts. Purdue Pharma did release a 160mg pill onto the market in 2002 but quickly removed it because of likelihood for abuse while only accounting for 1% of total sales. Francis Tagbo of Spokane, Washington recently had four of his disc's fused in his lower back. For his medication he was given a prescription to 10mg OxyContin tablets as well as other pain medications. (Tagbo) His surgery kept him out of work for a little over a month and was a very painful experience. He was given the lowest milligram dosage possible of OxyContin, it doesn't seem necessary to prescribe a higher dose of Oxy to a patient when these lower milligram tablets work sufficiently. Stronger tablets can only leave the patient in a medicated haze which in many cases results in addiction, sleep deprivation, confusion, vomiting, dizziness and a dependency for the drug that can not easily be broken. (Committee on Health and Education, 14)

The 40mg and the 80mg tablets are most favored by abusers and addicts of OxyContin when they're in need of a fix. In many cases the smaller doses do not work for their physical needs, so in turn they crush up the pill and snort the drug which produces an intense high that

*This seems to have no  
point to the paper.  
It bores me*

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many users say is equal to, or even better than, heroin. If the larger 80mg tablets were taken off of the market, the illegal use and sale of OxyContin would dramatically be reduced.

Across the United States the illegal drug trade has benefited from the over production and marketing of OxyContin. Since OxyContin is a relatively new phenomenon, it has been very closely watched. Since 1995 the illegal use of OxyContin has risen 500% in the state of Maine, as well as accounting for a jump from 2% to 12% of people in treatment center for OxyContin nationwide. (Committee on Health and Education, 4) A November 12, 2004 article in the Boston Globe detailed a multi-state OxyContin ring that was recently busted by the DEA. This ring involved gang members, pharmacists, and college students working together to distribute the drug. When the police arrested just one of the twenty suspects they found 20,000 OxyContin pills with an estimated street value of \$1.6 million dollars! (John Ellenent) While my paper is not about the illegal drug trade of OxyContin, it is important to understand just how much Oxy is on the market today, and how Purdue Pharms actions created a whirlwind of abuse due to of their over production and marketing of there \$2 billion dollar a year "miracle drug."

Although the Food and Drug Administration has made an effort to curb abuse of OxyContin, many of their attempts have still come up short. After being fired upon by consumers, special interest groups, and the DEA, the FDA beefed up their regulations by detailing OxyContin's addictive nature and labeling it with a "black box warning" which is the strongest the FDA allows. ([opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm](http://opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm)) The black box warning is a step in the right direction, but still many patients who use OxyContin simply will not take note of a new label on the same bottle of pills they've been taking for years. Besides, a warning label will not help an addict regulate their dosage or stop them from excessively

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using the pills more than the directions tell them to.

While <sup>examining</sup> ~~looking at~~ the abuse of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, the FDA, and the DEA, need to join together to form an alliance against the abuse and misuse of OxyContin. Instead of having big brother looking over Purdue's shoulder at all times, they need to work together to create short term regulations for OxyContin until the development of an abuse-resistant formulation can be safely distributed. Regulations such as Purdue's partnering with hospitals nationwide will allow for patients to understand what OxyContin is and how it works long before they are prescribed the pain medication. Perhaps the strongest move on Purdues part would be to take the 80mg tablets of OxyContin temporarily off of the market. Since these tablets are the strongest form of OxyContin, and most abused by pill junkies and patients, it would be very interesting to see the effects 80mg tablets have on Purdue Pharmaceuticals OxyContin use and abuse related data. Since patients could be prescribed a smaller dosage of OxyContin, there would be much less of a risk of abuse and misuse of a 40mg tablet compared to an 80mg tablet.

*what needs to be done!*

*If you take a look at the future of Purdue pharmaceuticals production of*  
~~When you look at what needs to be done~~ in the future for OxyContin, there are only two things that are necessary for Purdue Pharma to initiate. The first is the development of a new era of pain medication. Since July 22, 2002 Purdue has slowly began to create an abuse-resistant formulation of OxyContin to be safely distributed to patients.

*Remove a new Oxycodone based pain reliever,*  
*(cite) It will*  
(opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm) Although Purdue has spent over \$300 million <sup>cite</sup> dollars on the development of ~~this new drug~~, they have stated ~~they would~~ not be able to complete clinical development for at least 4 to 5 years. While a new form of OxyContin is in sight, Purdue Pharma has deliberately set back production and development of this new age opiate pain medication which would revolutionize the pharmaceutical world. While the

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technology to block opioids euphoric high is still in its early stages, and in many cases unavailable, Purdue has still taken the liberties with scientists in an attempt to demonstrate their development of a new form of OxyContin. (Professor T.) <sup>fix</sup>

In January 2005 Purdue Pharmaceutical introduced the testing of an abuse-resistant form of OxyCodone called Remoxy which in the future could possibly replace the highly addictive OxyCodone based OxyContin. (Medicine and Law Weekly) Even though <sup>purdue is</sup> ~~they are~~ still in the <sup>intermediate</sup> testing stage of experimentation, Remoxy has the potential to deter oxycodone abuse since it absorbs much more slowly than Oxycontin when crushed and consumed. (Medicine and Law Weekly) In a study conducted by pain therapeutics of Remoxy compared to OxyContin, Remoxy had significantly less of an effect on its user than that of OxyContin. While Remoxy still is very far from FDA approval, it brings hope to every person who feels passionately about deterring the abusive effects of OxyContin. While Purdue Pharmaceutical works on an abuse-resistant form of OxyContin, there are still those people who are using and abusing the current forms of OxyContin. If the Food and Drug Administration can comprehend the exigency for <sup>this</sup> ~~a new~~ form of OxyContin from Purdue Pharma, they will be able to provide far more resources and testing to understand its effects and abuse-resistant chemical make-up. With this information Purdue will be able to provide Remoxy to patients suffering from chronic pain while slowly taking the current form of OxyContin off of the market quicker. If Remoxy is approved by the FDA it will signify the beginning of a new age of pain medication which will allow patients and Purdue Pharma to safely consume and distribute Remoxy knowing without a doubt it does not have an addictive nature. <sup>Too much talk of Remoxy</sup>

For the current status of OxyContin to be changed, substantial efforts towards the

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quantity of the pill, its distribution, and research for a new medication must be made. ~~We~~ <sup>opiate based pain reliever must be made</sup> America

only <sup>has</sup> ~~have~~ to look at ~~the long term affect of OxyContin~~ <sup>OxyContin affects</sup> to see how detrimental it can be on

society, and how quickly it can destroy humanity. <sup>Since 1995</sup> Through the efforts of Purdue

Pharmaceutical <sup>scientists</sup> doctors, pharmacists, and patients across ~~the country~~ <sup>the country</sup> America there is still hope to stop

the spread of this evil drug. ~~By~~ <sup>By</sup> creating a new form of opiate pain medication that will

safely allow patients to get the relief they need and deserve, ~~along with~~ <sup>along with</sup> Purdue Pharmaceutical

~~will~~ will solve the complex of OxyContin abuse while saving many families & lives in the process.



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## OxyContin: Purdue Pharmaceutical's addiction to money

Since OxyContin's introduction into the pharmaceutical world in 1995 it has been praised as a miracle cure as well as a deadly street drug that is highly lethal. The Committee on Health, Education, and Labor states the pain pill "OxyContin is a synthetic time released medication which contains large levels of OxyCodone." OxyCodone is an opiate similar to the drug Morphine which in turn creates a euphoric high comparable to Heroin (Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Drugs, 72). <sup>On</sup> ~~In~~ the street ~~world~~ <sup>can be found</sup> OxyContin is referred to as Oxy or O.C. and can be sold for up to \$80 a pill. While ~~you can find~~ <sup>you can find</sup> OxyContin virtually anywhere on the street, the only company that has a patent to manufacture the product is Purdue Pharmaceutical. For the past ten years Purdue has been the leading pioneers in OxyContin based <sup>3</sup> research on pain and its associated treatments. While revolutionizing pain management for sufferers of chronic pain and cancer patients, Purdue Pharmaceutical <sup>has</sup> also highly advertised and marketed the schedule II narcotic to doctors and pharmacists who unintentionally prescribe OxyContin to their patients. With Purdue's patent set to expire on April 16, 2013 <sup>Harms</sup> ~~(Drug Industry Daily)~~, the FDA <sup>should?</sup> ~~needs~~ <sup>must?</sup> to implement new regulations concerning OxyContin distribution as well as creation of a new abuse resistant form of OxyContin. If the FDA ~~uses these plans~~ <sup>Follow this case/faction</sup>, OxyContin will soon become obsolete in the pharmaceutical industry while being surpassed by ~~other~~ <sup>non-abusive</sup> safe OxyCodone based pain medications.

In the February 12, 2002 hearing of the Senate Health, Labor, and Pensions committee, the effects of OxyContin were assessed while focusing on federal, state, and local

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efforts to decrease misuse of this product. An important statistic acknowledged at this hearing was the study released from the Drug Enforcement Agency, <sup>(DEA)</sup> stating OxyContin was blamed in the overdose deaths of 282 people over a 19 month period (Senate Health and Labor Committee, 2). These are not the kind of number <sup>when?</sup> that can easily be ignored. Another study from the Nation Institute on Drug Abuse stated that 4 million Americans reported to be <sup>ev?</sup> currently using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes (NIDA, 2). With the illegal use of prescription drugs including OxyContin on the rise, there's only a limited time to reduce the use and abuse <sup>while</sup> as well as allowing current patients the extensive treatment they deserve.

Americans hold many different views on the prescription drug OxyContin. Thousand <sup>ev? same?</sup> of patients as well as doctors feel OxyContin is needed to survive and stay mobile, while many patients and drug addicts who use it acknowledge its abusive characteristics and the physical dependency it creates. <sup>The government formed</sup> Others like the Committee on Health, Education, and Labor <sup>who?</sup> feel it is the manufacturer's fault for excessive marketing, and that proper steps must be taken to regulate its distribution (Health and Labor Committee, 5). One of the strongest advocates of OxyContin is John Stewart, ~~who is the~~ executive vice president and general manager of Purdue Pharma. With the help of Dr. Allan Gordon of Mount Sinai Hospital, <sup>Purdue they have</sup> created a pain dependency program to help understand and treat pain management for prescription drugs. John Stewart stated, "The ultimate target of this partnership is to ensure that patients in need can be treated effectively, while also reducing to the fullest extent possible the misuse of and addiction to all prescription analgesics."

([www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUs/News/2004/Dec02\\_04.htm](http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/AboutUs/News/2004/Dec02_04.htm)). Even though this program sounds <sup>// good</sup> impressive, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the National Institute on Drug Abuse feel these steps are not enough. Strict measures such as government regulations and educational

programs for physicians are needed if OxyContin is continued to be produced.

Although these methods to successfully market OxyContin are progressing in the right direction, thousands of Americans believe OxyContin needs to be taken off of the market entirely. Opponents and many drug addicts alike believe this is the only way for users and the Purdue pharmaceutical itself to clean up their acts. OxyContin is a Schedule II narcotic, which means it provides the maximum amount of medication possible, as well as having very adverse effects on its users (~~Controlled Substance Act~~). A Schedule I narcotic is considered to have no recognized medical purpose and is illegal (such as cocaine or heroin.)

OxyContin's high abuse level demonstrates how important the war on Purdue

Pharmaceutical's monopoly of the OxyContin drug market really is. Opponents of

OxyContin have a very powerful reason to be so passionate about its removal. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have been caught up in its deadly web whether they used it legally or illegally. Not only have the patients suffered, but the families and friends who watched their loved ones get caught up in OxyContin's grasp through snorting, injecting, or swallowing it.

Whether an advocate or an opponent of OxyContin, it's clear to see the dilemma dropped upon the Federal drug administration, families, and communities alike.

While there are thousands of Americans obviously addicted to OxyContin, we have to look at the much larger picture of effective pain treatment for chronic pain and cancer patients. Last year in 2004 OxyContin was the number one prescribed Schedule II narcotic on the market, filling a record 7.2 million prescriptions in 2001, its allowed millions of Americans to have their pain free life back (Amman, 3). For many it has been viewed as a blessing for their suffering of moderate to severe chronic pain. The American Pain Foundation estimates 50 million Americans suffer from chronic pain, while much of it is

under treated due to doctor's apprehension to prescribing OxyContin (NIDA, 8). What needs to be understood is that OxyContin is not a street drug in most cities and communities.

Almost all of the patients prescribed OxyContin are given it for a legitimate and very effective treatment of their pain. The issue with OxyContin is as a pill it can and will continue to provide sufficient pain relief, but as a powder it brings complete euphoria which is not a safe or effective way to treat pain or emotional problems.

The underlying factor is a very small amount of patients actually wrongfully use ~~the~~ OxyContin. One study from the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported out of 38 chronic pain patients who used OxyContin for four to seven years, only two became addicted to the

prescription medication (Ammana, 13). While many opioids are not as strong as OxyContin, <sup>rephrase</sup> we must assess the need for its powerful treatment of pain for millions of Americans in need.

A Seattle, Washington, writer Geov Parrish who has taken OxyContin for seven years stated "OxyContin is a narcotic, and I am <sup>ask</sup> "addicted" to it, in the sense that if I don't take it I'd get nasty withdrawal symptoms. I also need and am "addicted" to a number of other prescribed drugs, and to food, water, oxygen, and my sweetie (Parrish). What America needs to understand is how necessary OxyContin is for pain sufferers throughout a day to day basis.

Because, no matter what type of drug is on the market, there will always be the few who abuse and misuse the product. Patients who abuse OxyContin in no way represent the millions of legitimate patients who are not addicted but only depend on it for one use, and that is living a life in comfort without agonizing over excruciating pain.

There seems to be no easy answer to the ever present issue of OxyContin. If it was reassigned as a Schedule I narcotic there would be no medicinal use for its pain relief purposes, and if this issue were to be left alone, Purdue Pharma, legitimate patients, and drug

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P.3

English 101.39

trafficker's would be the only ones benefiting from its detrimental effects. While communities, families, friends, and addicts of OxyContin would see a horrible downward spiral into the pit OxyContin has created in America. The most realistic view is to regulate and protect OxyContin from being abused even more than it is today. This viewpoint can and will be made possible through a nationwide war on illegal users and Purdue Pharmaceutical itself. *costs?*

To help develop a nation that is not dependent and addicted to the prescription drug OxyContin, we first must look at the source of where it comes from. Purdue Pharma has created a pain relief empire through the sale and highly addictive nature of OxyContin which they created and hold the all important patent to. The Drug Enforcement Agency stated "Purdue Pharma has contributed to OxyContin's disproportionate abuse by marketing it as less prone to abuse than similar drugs" like morphine and heroin (Committee on Health and Education, 8). Purdue's actions surrounding the explosive marketing to physicians, pharmacists, and many others in the medical field has introduced many questions about Purdue's extensive promotion of OxyContin. Including Purdue's education or lack thereof to physicians and their power to properly prescribe OxyContin to patients who truly need the highly addictive substance. Without proper knowledge of this "miracle drug", doctors are more likely to suggest OxyContin to patients who would only need a less addictive form of OxyCodone in the first place. In turn the patient could possibly misuse the prescription or live without the pills and sell them illegally for a very large profit. The aggressive marketing and promotion of OxyContin to pharmacists and physicians by Purdue Pharma is wrong. In many circumstances the question that can be asked would be, is the abuse and misuse of OxyContin by Purdue Pharmaceutical as wrong as the illegal sale and profit of drug dealers *good, but replace*  
*should*

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on the street?

In 2002 a federal judge stated that the plaintiffs in a motion to impose restrictions on the access to OxyContin had “failed to produce any evidence showing that the defendant’s (Purdue Pharma’s) marketing, promotional, or distributional practices have ever caused even one tablet of OxyContin to be inappropriately prescribed or diverted” (Committee on Health and Education, 5). If Purdue Pharma had properly informed and educated physicians about the detrimental effects of OxyContin, then every pill prescribed would be needed by the patient to relieve them from their chronic pains. It is because of Purdue’s unfortunate marketing actions, promotional practices, and distributional methods, that we have such an epidemic of patients using, <sup>transition?</sup> people abusing, and corrupt doctors who write prescriptions for those who doctor shop. It has taken far more than just Purdue Pharma to create the nationwide epidemic which we see in our country today, but like everything else this predicament has a beginning and an end which will hopefully conclude with Purdue taking responsibility for its actions. *weak*

*Connection?*

Over 600 lawsuits from patients prescribed OxyContin have been filed <sup>(Hans)</sup> claiming it was not necessary for their pain and only resulted in adverse effects and addiction. Patients across America have begun filing these legal battles <sup>3</sup> along with an on going legal investigation into Purdue Pharma’s excessive marketing of OxyContin without stressing its addictive nature. Hal Rogers a Representative of Kentucky asked the General Accounting Office to investigate the marketing of the “miracle prescription drug” OxyContin. Unlike the pharmaceutical company Purdue, Mr. Rogers not only wants patients to be treated effectively, but for Purdue to safely distribute, manufacture, market, and prescribe OxyContin to patients with forms of severe cancer and chronic pain (Committee of Health and Education, 3). *cite*

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If the larger 80mg tablets were taken off of the market, the illegal use and sale of OxyContin would dramatically be reduced. Across the United States the illegal drug trade has benefited from the over production and marketing of OxyContin. Because OxyContin is a relatively new phenomenon, it has always been very closely observe. Since 1995 the illegal use of OxyContin has risen 500% in the state of Maine, as well as accounting for a jump from 2% to 12% of people in treatment centers nationwide (Committee on Health and Education,

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aren't/shouldn't  
they be  
addicted or  
not addicted  
by then  
either way?

While examining the abuse of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, the FDA, and the DEA, need to join together to form an alliance against the abuse and misuse of OxyContin. Instead of having big brother looking over Purdue's shoulder at all times, ~~they~~ need to work together to create short term regulations for OxyContin until the development of an abuse-resistant formulation can be safely distributed. Regulations such as Purdue's partnering with hospitals nationwide will allow for patients to understand what OxyContin is and how it works long



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before they are prescribed the pain medication. Perhaps the strongest move on Purdue's part would be to take the 80mg tablets of OxyContin temporarily off of the market. Since these tablets are the strongest form of OxyContin, and most abused by pill junkies and patients, it would be very interesting to see the effects 80mg tablets have on Purdue Pharmaceuticals OxyContin use and abuse related data. Since patients could be prescribed a smaller dosage of OxyContin, there would be much less of a risk of abuse and misuse of a 40mg tablet compared to an 80mg tablet.

Q: wouldn't they just take 2-3 pills then?

only? or principally?

There is only one thing necessary for Purdue Pharmaceutical to initiate in the future.

That is to further their development of a new era of pain medication. Since July 22, 2002 Purdue has slowly began to create an abuse-resistant formulation of OxyContin to be safely distributed to patients ([opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm](http://opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm)). Although Purdue has spent over \$300 million dollars on the development of Remoxy an OxyCodone based pain reliever, they have stated they will not be able to complete clinical development for at least 2 to 3 years. While a new form of OxyContin is in sight, Purdue Pharma has deliberately set back production and development of this new age opiate pain medication which would revolutionize the pharmaceutical world. While the technology to block opioids euphoric high is still in its early stages, and in many cases unavailable, Purdue has still taken the liberties with scientists in an attempt to demonstrate their development of a new form of OxyContin ([opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm](http://opioids.com/oxycodone/oxycontin.htm)).

good

ev? strong sensation

In January 2005 Purdue Pharmaceutical introduced the testing of an abuse-resistant form of OxyCodone called Remoxy which in the future could possibly replace the highly addictive OxyContin (Medicine and Law Weekly). Even though they are still in the testing stage of experimentation, Remoxy has the potential to deter oxycodone abuse since it absorbs

4/15/05

Mr. Tarr

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much more slowly than Oxycontin when crushed and consumed (Medicine and Law Weekly). In a study conducted by pain therapeutics on Remoxy compared to OxyContin, Remoxy had significantly less of an effect on its user than OxyContin. While still very far from FDA approval, it brings hope to every person who feels passionately about deterring the abusive effects of OxyContin. While Purdue Pharmaceutical works on an abuse-resistant form of OxyContin, there are still those people who are ~~using and~~ abusing the current forms of OxyContin. If the Food and Drug Administration can comprehend the exigency for a new form of OxyContin from Purdue Pharma, they will be able to provide far more resources and testing to understand its effects and abuse-resistant chemical make-up. With this information Purdue will be able to provide Remoxy to patients suffering from chronic pain while slowly taking the current form of OxyContin off of the market. If Remoxy is approved by the FDA it will signify the beginning of a new age of pain medication which will allow patients and Purdue Pharma to safely consume and distribute Remoxy knowing without a doubt it does not have an addictive nature.

*1900*  
*to get resources? do they do the testing?*  
*fall order*

For the current status of OxyContin to be changed, substantial efforts towards the quantity of the pill, its distribution, and research and testing of Remoxy must be made. We only have to look at the long term affect of OxyContin to see how detrimental it can be on society, and how quickly it can destroy humanity. Through the efforts of Purdue Pharmaceutical, doctors, pharmacists, and patients across America there is still hope to stop the spread of this evil drug, while creating a new form of opiate pain medication that will safely allow patients to get the relief they need and deserve.

*removal of the #s*

*works cited?*

On a crisp April 1<sup>st</sup> morning in 1986, my mother was laying bed ridden praying for the birth of her son . Whether it was divine intervention or the kinship of all living things, a miracle was born in the great city of Helena, Montana that morning. Surrounded by my mother, father and two loving sisters Jennifer and Stephanie, I was brought into a loving and caring family that could only be described like a scene out of a cheesy Christmas movie.

When I was only a year old, I became very sick with a rare illness called Kawasaki disease. The disease caused inflammation of my blood vessels in my coronary arteries, and a very high 106 degree fever which blocked much of the blood flow to my heart. I was sent to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota where I was treated for the disease, and made a full recovery. After a month in the hospital, I was back with my family in Montana. I was too young at the time to understand or even know what was going on, but now when I think about it, I can only thank God and the doctors for allowing me to continue my journey through life.

From what I was told, I was a very happy child. I always had friends, that is, until my dad's job with Schwans frozen foods would cause us to pack up and move away time and time again. I can't complain about moving, whether it was to Portland, Oregon, Marshall, Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota or to my current residence in Spokane, Washington, life has always gotten better every time we've moved. It's tough being the new kid in the class and leaving all of your friends behind, but I wouldn't be here writing my first English 101 paper if everything didn't happen for a reason.

I have always been a very athletic person. In my childhood I played Y.M.C.A. football, baseball, basketball, and soccer, and while in high school I also took part in

football and golf. I was never the best athlete on the field but always gave my best effort whether we won or lost. Sports have given me some of my finest memories, from two undefeated seasons of flag football, an undefeated freshman football team, three homeruns in one coach pitch baseball game, to my seventh grade baseball team that lost every single game we played. Sports have always been my outlet, whether it's playing them or watching this weekends Steelers vs. Patriots AFC Championship game.

When I was 17 I accomplished the rank of Eagle Scout. Boy Scouts has always been filled with fun activities and camping trips that have taught me lifelong lessons and morals that I will never forget. I also try to follow the Boy Scout Law in my daily life. It states "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent". To me these words are more than a list, but a lifestyle that I try to incorporate into mine. I have to thank my parents for letting me be involved in such a good organization, and for always being there with me every step of the way.

I have many hobbies other than organized activities like sports and Boy Scouts. My top three hobbies are, hunting, snowboarding, and playing Frisbee. I've been hunting with my Dad since I was 12. Every year over Thanksgiving he and I go Elk hunting at our ranch that we own in Montana. We also spend the fall hunting for Pheasant and other upland game birds. I've only been snowboarding for 4 years now, but I can ride with the best of them, as long as we're not hitting the biggest kickers at the terrain park, I'll be ok. I love to go snowboarding because it's a day long event. Not everywhere in the world can you find as good of mountains like the ones here in the Northwest. My most recent hobby that I picked up is throwing the Frisbee with my best friend and roommate Colin. There is nothing better on a warm summer evening than to toss around the Frisbee and

get a little bit of exercise. I love Frisbee because when you're throwing it around everybody else wants to play; occasionally we meet some really fun people that share our hobby as well.

So far I have only had two jobs. My first was at Taco Bell in Spokane. I loved working at a taco place. This was my high school job for two and a half years of my life. I slaved over a hot stove preparing bean burritos for the common folk. When I graduated and was accepted into this fine University, I had to quit and start looking for another job that I could get while going to school here. Just this week I was hired to work for the Village Center Movie Theater. I know that starting a new job will be rough, but climbing the corporate ladder to success isn't easy.

Coming to college has helped me develop my own personality. It has also given me many exciting new experiences like living on my own, dorm life, and as sad as it sounds doing my own laundry. I hope with the hard work and dedication that I will put forth, I will be able to learn many new things and have wonderful experiences to look back upon when I am old and grey.

*Write about personality.*

*Your paper was very nicely written as far as vocabulary and sentence structure. I liked how you showed your voice throughout the entire paper. You shared many experiences that you have had, which is good because it tells of your entire life + what ~~is~~ your likes + dislikes are. However, I feel like I still don't know your personality. I know what you like, but I don't know your unique personality traits. Try to explain to the reader a little more about your personality. Dig a*

¶ When I began my freshman year at WSU last fall, I didn't realize how difficult being world class face to face could possibly be. I also didn't think I would be able to write a 10 page research paper, compile over a dozen sources, and create an autobiography to be put into <sup>one</sup> a magnificent portfolio. Because of English 101, I have learned and also demonstrated many skills such as writing as a process, knowledge of conventions, rhetorical awareness, and most importantly to me, critical thinking.

¶ While in High School, I was not properly educated how to apply these methods <sup>process</sup> listed above into my <sup>papers</sup> work. Mr. Tarr's English 101 course, has given the energy and excitement <sup>I have</sup> been lacking for school since Junior High. By closely incorporating <sup>These methods have helped me to expand my writing process into this year, while allowing me to view writing from a complete different perspective.</sup> Lester's, <sup>Italics or both in my re. paper</sup> Composing from Sources, books, court cases, and internet materials, I have used critical thinking to expose Purdue Pharmaceutical's direct involvement with the excessive marketing of OxyContin. Throughout my research, I have also given various views of OxyContin from the FDA, Committee on health and labor, and patients, to help convey different views on the subject. Because my research paper has changed substantially from my project proposal, I have shown how to use critical thinking by identifying the actions Purdue Pharmaceutical's needs to take, rather than exploring the fact that OxyContin is <sup>a widely abused</sup> ~~an abusive~~ drug.

¶ Along with critical thinking, I have demonstrated rhetorical awareness by adapting to different audiences views of OxyContin. Throughout my research paper I introduced views such as OxyContin's medical benefits, its addictive nature, and intermediate views that would strictly regulate and develop a new abuse resistant form of OxyContin. I also used appropriate tone in the opening of my Autobiography and my research paper. This allowed the reader to form a perspective of myself and who I am, as

MLA format  
using  
parenthetical  
citation

well as his or her view on OxyContin. Through coming to class everyday, I've shown the need and desire to improve my writing skills in the years to come. This will ~~only~~ help me to focus my writing and establish <sup>valuable</sup> ~~strong~~ topics in the future.

A This year I have also learned ~~that~~ writing is a very slow process. It takes multiple drafts, peer reviews, and weekly trips to Mr. Tarr's office to have a paper that is at the

colligate level. Because I have written multiple drafts for works like my Autobiography, Research paper, and DNA position statement, I have been able to reflect on my previous drafts and revise them due to my extended knowledge I ~~know~~ <sup>now</sup> have on these subjects.

The writing center and my English 102 class have also helped me form a process for my papers. Hearing their input has helped me to demonstrate my ability to reflect on my own writing process and has allowed me to critically revise my works.

D I have been working on my knowledge of conventions this entire semester.

Whether it was summarizing a source, or formatting the paragraphs in my research paper, I had to develop skills to structure my papers so ~~they could easily be comprehended~~ <sup>based on the MLA format.</sup>

This also included properly citing all of my sources so they could be referred back to when read. If you properly use ~~knowledge of~~ conventions like I did in my research paper,

you will see ~~that~~ it is very easy to understand. My knowledge of conventions has been one of the hardest challenges for me this year. Although it can become difficult, it is just another one of the step I have to master to become an excellent writer.

N Because of my new and improved style of writing, I can use all of the information I've developed this semester as my platform for colligate writing. Mr. Tarr has been a valuable encyclopedia of knowledge which has helped me access new forms of research through Griffin, our WSU libraries, and most importantly myself. I have also taken away

with me the phrase from the beginning of the semester "know thyself", because without knowledge of ourselves, we are lost, and in turn cannot know anything else.