

Hey, Put That Out!

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Smoking is not just a problem for smokers; it is actually a public health menace, and smoking should be banned in public places. It is well known that smokers die an average of eight years sooner than non-smokers, and about half of those who smoke die from some smoke-related health problem. Smoking is well known to cause cancers, breathing problems, and heart and blood vessel problems. What isn't so well known is that these problems don't just affect smokers; they affect anyone who inhales cigarette smoke, like waitresses in bars and restaurants and children who live with smoking parents. When it comes to the physiological effects of cigarette smoke, there is no difference between an active and a passive smoker. Banning public smoking will not only improve the health of innocent bystanders, it will also reduce how much impressionable kids are exposed to the concept of smoking at all. Though it was once commonplace for characters in films to smoke, it is now all but obsolete. If public smoking were banned, then the only thing standing between a kid and the bad influence of cigarette smoking would be a parent that needs to kick the habit.

1. How many reasons does the author provide for why smoking should be banned in public places?

2. The author states that when it comes to the physiological effects of smoking, there is no difference between active and passive smoking. Which reason for banning smoking in public places does this evidence support?

- A. Smokers die an average of eight years sooner than non-smokers.
- B. Banning smoking will improve the health of innocent bystanders.
- C. It is now all but obsolete to see characters in films smoking.

3. Is what the author says about characters in films smoking relevant? Why or why not?

