

Cami Provencher

Username: camiprovencher

Email: [camiprovencher@gmail.com](mailto:camiprovencher@gmail.com)

School: Joliet Junior College

Day 19 Greener Challenge

**After reading chapter one of Hemp: Lifeline to the Future, and watching the short film on harvesting hemp made by Patagonia, some things I have learned are...**

- **The American flag was originally made out of hemp (I learned this from the Patagonia film).** I never knew that the flag was made from hemp centuries ago, and I find it sad that a country that was founded on freedom and patriotism- so many years later has restricted the freedom to grow industrialized hemp. What I find so surprising too, is one way of showing patriotism is by being jobs in America- for the people of America; yet, America has a restriction on a production of a crop, that would bring maintain more jobs and business *within* America! It just goes to show the resistance and negative affiliation many people in our government still have with hemp ever since the ban of hemp growth in the 1930's. Though, I am optimistic regulations will change for the better, and hemp may become removed from the Controlled Substance Act within the next 10 years, *depending on who our next president will be.*
- **All of the different ways hemp can be used (I learned this from reading the first chapter of the book Hemp...).** This first chapter of the book Hemp: Lifeline to the Future, examined a plethora of ways hemp can be used in one's life. Some ways hemp can be used that particularly stuck out to me were: hemp seed oil sealant, paint, plumbing, construction boards, hemp biofuel, seed oil printing ink, and hemp seed coffee [shops]. I was not aware of all of these purposes hemp had, and it is crazy to imagine a future where hemp can be utilized in all these different ways in our life. From the seed, to the oil, and the fibers from the entire plant itself- what I really appreciate is that hemp can be completely utilized, which is why hemp has so many purposes. And, as the narrator/main character mentioned, even the biproducts that hemp may have can be used in the production of other goods (the story mentions using the cellulose from hemp to be used as PVC plumbing component.) It is exciting to think of a future we may have living a more sustainable life living off hemp products.
- **The point that hemp biofuel could reduce costs from energy companies (I learned this point from reading the first chapter of the book Hemp...).** I learned a valuable point the chapter made about utilizing hemp biofuel: it would reduce a lot of the costs to provide the energy, because as opposed to

nuclear energy [as the book mentioned] and/or other such similar forms of energy, costs would not be as high to produce the energy, and insurance energy companies would go down as well given hemp is a safe material. More importantly than costs though, hemp biofuel seems to be a much more sustainable alternative- which would not only be a more reliable of a source to sustain long term as opposed to fossil fuels, but hemp would likely have a much safer bi-product as well. These are all great points to consider and appreciate- giving me an even greater reason to value the growth and production of industrialized hemp in the U.S.

**Do I think this type of lifestyle is possible in the future?** Well, I think once we as a society get passed the 'hump' of making growth of industrialized hemp available in the U.S. without needing a DEA permit, I think rather quickly after that many will start to see all the purposes and benefits of growing and producing hemp- manufacturers especially. Because, you have to consider the price costs of growing a versatile crop on one's own land to be used in some product, versus either spending money to manufacture a part of some product, and/or buying that part of some product from a foreign country. And while I hate to keep only referring to price, unfortunately in our system today, money is what talks and does the convincing to many of our political leaders and big manufacturers. So, as mentioned before, I consider the acceptance and day-to-day use of hemp and hemp products sort of being like a drop in a roller coaster: once the U.S. finally makes it to the top of the rollercoaster (making the production of hemp available with constraint), rather soon afterwards people will start to understand and value the qualities and purposes of hemp, as the roller coaster drops and goes downhill quickly (going downhill is not supposed to symbolize anything negative, it is just part of the analogy). Though, I do not ever know if hemp will be used to the magnitude that the narrator of the chapter used it- though, I think the author used hemp products in his story so much to not only bring awareness to the purposes of hemp, but to bring about the point that one day hemp products can be of abundance in our lives, once it is socially acceptable and of easier access to grow.