

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Keeping Our School Healthy: The Importance of Tobacco and Vape Use Policies

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. School policies aim to address the potential risks of tobacco and vaping, such as nicotine addiction, which can lead to dependency and withdrawal symptoms. Respiratory problems, including lung damage and breathing difficulties, are also associated with these substances. Policies educate students about these dangers and provide guidelines to avoid them.
2. As a student representative, I would argue that strong school policies on tobacco and vape use are crucial for creating a healthy and safe learning environment. These policies protect students from harmful substances, promote informed decision-making, and ensure consistency in addressing violations. They also demonstrate the school's commitment to the well-being of its students and staff, helping us grow in a safe and supportive atmosphere.
3. Collaborative efforts involving students, teachers, parents, and school administrators are vital as they create a united front against tobacco and vape use. Students can lead by setting positive examples and advocating for policy adherence. Teachers can educate students and support prevention programs. Parents can reinforce anti-smoking messages at home. Administrators can enforce policies and provide resources. Together, these efforts create a comprehensive approach to a smoke-free environment.
4. Peer support plays a significant role as students can influence their peers positively by sharing information on the risks of tobacco and vaping, offering encouragement to make healthy choices, and leading by example. When students collectively reject harmful substances, it creates a culture of wellness that encourages everyone to stay smoke-free.

