

**Title:** The Land of the (Pain) Free

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It is no secret that the United States is an epidemic right now where opioids run rampant. In 2017, President Donald Trump declared the crisis a public health emergency. Billions of narcotics are coming into the country and millions are being abused constantly. It seems that the ones affected the most, to no surprise is impoverished cities and towns in America. In my presentation, I plan to address the main contributor, the pharmaceutical industry. Through the commercialization of prescription opiates, the pharma industry has induced over 700,000 prematurely deaths from opiates (NIH). During the presentation, I will explain the biggest two factors, deception (Katz, M.D.) and overprescription (Hirsch) and present factual information regarding the crisis, no anecdotal evidence is needed. Directly after making my case for the reason for the crisis, I will be discussing how we can slowly end the opioid crisis in the United States through Naloxone. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that prevents opioid receptors from being activated, and when in use, knocks opioids off receptors (NIH). However, due to a decrease in availability, many citizens in America are having trouble accessing it. Further, The National Institute of Health estimates with increased availability in Naloxone, the United States “could avert 21 percent of opioid overdose deaths,” which can equivalent to over 10,000 lives saved. In my presentation, I plan on being factual, not emotional and present a threatening problem in the United States that is only growing.

## Works Cited

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