Deep Study of the Marijuana Business

What I plan to write about is the whole economic process of the market for drugs, more specifically marijuana. Because of its ethical issues, it adds another layer of economic choices that people have to make in order to buy or sell something like this on the “market.” I plan to discuss the opportunity costs for buying and selling this product and apply some basic microeconomic theory to explain why and how marijuana is produced and distributed. Of course, this would be a rather boring paper that one might write in intermediate micro. But pushing it further would make it more interesting. I want to find out how it’s produced, where it’s produced, who produces it, and how the price is determined in the process. I want to try and explain how the ethical and legal issues drive up the price of marijuana and by how much. I plan on conducting several interviews of people who buy and sell the product, asking them what they do in order to keep things in order.

I know that many things like cocaine are grown outside of the country and smuggled in, but I’m curious as to where marijuana actually comes from, and also how the drug actually affects the culture and the economics of a certain area. Boulder would be a good place to start.

My paper could also include how the legalization of such a drug for medicinal use might help or hurt those who use it for recreational use. Also, how it could affect those who are actually in need of using marijuana to actually help them deal with their illnesses.
At the very least, my paper should touch on both ethical and economic approaches to the production and distribution of marijuana, and why the prices are what they are. I want to know why people continue to circulate it especially since the risks seem to outweigh the rewards, which means that either drug dealers are stupid, or that there are other reasons the government doesn’t seem to know about that drives these people to these actions. Some may be unmeasurable, but I would be content to know that they do affect human behavior.
1. The criminalization and medicalization of marijuana: a study of changing deviance designations / by Jeffrey Matthew London 2006 (R, some)

   http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS56056 (R) I thought it would be interesting to see what was true.

3. Why marijuana should be legal / by Ed Rosenthal & Steve Kobby with S. Newhart
   New York: Thunders Mouth Press, 2003

4. Biology of marijuana [electronic resource]: from gene to behavior / edited by Emmanuel S. Onaivi
   London; New York: Taylor & Francis, 2003

5. The Cannabible: Jason King (read some)