**‘We just try to keep people alive.’ Use of dangerous synthetic marijuana growing-Questions**

Instructions: Answer each question using the article from the *Lexington Herald Leader*. Be sure to explain your thoughts on the critical thinking questions.

1. Why were multiple Lexington police officer and fire fighters called to Phoenix Park?

2. *Critical Thinking*: Why do you think synthetic marijuana has become popular with Lexington’s homeless population?

3. *Critical Thinking*: Why do you think synthetic marijuana has just now become a bigger problem in Lexington?

4. What is the chemical compound in the drug supposed to affect?

5. Why are synthetic marijuana overdoses more difficult to treat than heroin?

6. What are the possible side effects of “serentity?”

7. *Critical Thinking*: Why would a group of people in the same area all overdose at the same time?

8. When did the surge in synthetic marijuana use begin?

9. *Critical Thinking*: What does Polston mean when he says, “That doesn't mean the problem went away, it just moved somewhere else?”

10. How low can the cost of the drug be?

11. *Critical Thinking*: Why do you think this drug is so cheap?

12. *Critical Thinking*: Why do you think the age of the people who abuse this drug is so varied?

13. Where in the body can the toxic substances from the drug be stored?

14. What did the state legislature do in 2016?

15. *Critical Thinking*: Why are the police targeting dealers, not addicts?

16. Why are synthetic marijuana overdoes difficult to track?

17. What is the only way paramedics in the filed can identify if someone is experiencing a synthetic marijuana overdose?

18. What does Battalion Chief West warn you are taking a chance with if you use synthetic marijuana?

19. *Critical Thinking*: Do you think synthetic marijuana use will continue to grow in Lexington or is it a short term fad among drug users?

20. *Critical Thinking*: What can the city of Lexington do to help combat the use of drugs in our community?