

Student Sample A

Grade 11 Argument Writing Performance Task: Distracted Driving

Mobile Devices, Driving, and the Law

In 2010, Oregon law was changed so that those 18 and younger could not use mobile devices while driving, and those older could only use a hands-free accessory. For years drivers had been getting into crashes because of new technology drawing their attention from the road. With these new laws, drivers are forced to pay attention to the road and put devices away. Personally, I believe that these laws have greatly helped our state in becoming safer and more aware of the dangers cell phones cause while driving. That is why we should keep the law the same, but start to enforce it more strictly.

People today think that they are the best at everything, egos are through the roof! So when it comes to the dangers of being on a phone while driving, many think nothing will happen to them. Research given by David Teater says "The human brain does not multitask." If you can't multitask then you are not able to put full attention on both a phone and driving at the same time. This puts everyone at a risk for crashing because you have to check what text you just got. Putting yourself and others in danger is never worth a text or phone call; ever.

Still don't think that texting or calling someone while driving is dangerous? Then here are some facts; "Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted" (FMCSA). Yes, that one text message creates 23 times a crash risk to both you, your passenger, and other cars. According to Madden and Lenhart, "40% of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in away that put people in danger". With the help of enforcing the law more, we could eliminate future teens from experiencing this dangerous situation and doing it themselves.

Teens are known to be bad drivers, its just the truth. They have the feeling of freedom, they can do whatever they want, whenever they want. Of course this leads to being on their phones while driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration collected data showing that 18-20 year olds have 44% of them sending texts or e-mails

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while driving, And 49% of ages 21-24. Almost half of the each demographic is distracting themselves while driving. The danger associated with this act can and will cause drivers of any age danger.

Oregon and other states should start to strictly enforce the laws on mobile devices while driving. People are disregarding the law and causing crashes due to being on their cell phones. Even though facts and data are released to the public about the dangers of being on a phone and driving, they still do it. Enforce the law, and help keep our citizens safe.