

National Youth Traffic Safety Month Lesson Plan

“Bumping Back Distracted Driving”



National Youth
Traffic Safety Month®

LESSON TOPIC	Preventing Distracted Driving															
NOTES	This lesson is designed to be used for both middle and high school students. Please feel free to adapt it to fit your curriculum goals and time constraints. Also, you may choose to have your students complete this lesson with the aid of a computer.															
WHAT’S THE POINT?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn the dangers of distracted driving. • Students will express their thoughts regarding the prevention of distracted driving. • Students will understand the important part they play in promoting youth traffic safety. 															
MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student handout • White construction paper (or students could use a computer) • Art supplies 															
FOCUSING EVENT	<p>Place students in groups of four or five. Each student in the group should be given a different number (1-4 or 1-5, depending on the size of the group). Read the following questions below, and students are to try to get the correct answers. After reading the question, allow students to discuss what they feel is the correct answer as a group. Then, using the Numbered Heads Together strategy, call out a number. That numbered member of the group will answer for their group. Award points for the correct answer. Students should also write the correct answers on their handout.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Q1: True or False: Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes.</td> <td>A1: TRUE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2: What percentage of crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event?</td> <td>A2: 80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3: What is the most common distraction for drivers?</td> <td>A3: THE USE OF CELL PHONES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4: According to recent studies, about how many people at any one moment are driving while talking on cell phones?</td> <td>A4: ONE MILLION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q5: What percentage of teens say that passengers sometimes distract them?</td> <td>A5: 47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q6: What percentage of the 6,000 teens that die every year in car crashes die because of distractions while driving?</td> <td>A6: 87%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q7: Researchers found that a single passenger doubles the risk of a fatal crash, while the risk is how many times higher when two or more teens ride along?</td> <td>A7: 5 TIMES HIGHER</td> </tr> </table>		Q1: True or False: Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes.	A1: TRUE	Q2: What percentage of crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event?	A2: 80%	Q3: What is the most common distraction for drivers?	A3: THE USE OF CELL PHONES	Q4: According to recent studies, about how many people at any one moment are driving while talking on cell phones?	A4: ONE MILLION	Q5: What percentage of teens say that passengers sometimes distract them?	A5: 47%	Q6: What percentage of the 6,000 teens that die every year in car crashes die because of distractions while driving?	A6: 87%	Q7: Researchers found that a single passenger doubles the risk of a fatal crash, while the risk is how many times higher when two or more teens ride along?	A7: 5 TIMES HIGHER
Q1: True or False: Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes.	A1: TRUE															
Q2: What percentage of crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event?	A2: 80%															
Q3: What is the most common distraction for drivers?	A3: THE USE OF CELL PHONES															
Q4: According to recent studies, about how many people at any one moment are driving while talking on cell phones?	A4: ONE MILLION															
Q5: What percentage of teens say that passengers sometimes distract them?	A5: 47%															
Q6: What percentage of the 6,000 teens that die every year in car crashes die because of distractions while driving?	A6: 87%															
Q7: Researchers found that a single passenger doubles the risk of a fatal crash, while the risk is how many times higher when two or more teens ride along?	A7: 5 TIMES HIGHER															
TEACHING STEPS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the statistics used during the focusing event. 2. Conduct a class discussion with the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is distracted driving? b. What are examples of distracted driving? c. What stat(s) was(were) the most surprising to you? Why? d. Have there been times when you’ve driven distracted? Have there been times when you’ve ridden with someone who was distracted? 3. Emphasize the fact that students – and their peers – play an important part in promoting youth traffic safety. 4. Instruct students to create a bumper sticker that promotes driving while not distracted. Students should complete the work plan on the handout. Each bumper sticker should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporate one of these distracted driving themes: texting, eating while driving, or having too many passengers in the car b. Include a slogan that promotes driving while not distracted c. Incorporate one of the statistics learned in this lesson d. Use interesting graphic elements and creativity 5. Students may share their finished creations, if time allows. They could also vote for a favorite. 															
EVALUATION	Students should be evaluated during the creation of the bumper sticker (participation and effort) and also after the creation (whether or not it met the criteria). Make sure to display the finished bumper stickers on a bulletin board, in the hallway, or in another prominent place in the school!															
SOURCES	www.sadd.org/stats.htm , www.ihs.org/research/qanda/cellphones.html , www.rmia.org/Auto/Teens/Teen_Driving_Statistics.htm , http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=4808148 , www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/01/26/teen.driving.study/index/html															