

# National Youth Traffic Safety Month Lesson Plan

## “Save the Drama: Wear a Seat Belt”



<b>LESSON TOPIC</b>	Promoting the Use of Seat Belts
<b>NOTES</b>	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.
<b>WHAT’S THE POINT?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will learn the dangers of driving or riding without a seat belt.</li> <li>• Students will express their thoughts related to driving or riding with seat belts.</li> <li>• Students will practice responding to circumstances related to seat belt use.</li> </ul>
<b>MATERIALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student handout</li> </ul>
<b>FOCUSING EVENT</b>	<p>Share the following statistic with the students: “Compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use.”</p> <p>Ask students why they think this is the case. Why are some teens not wearing seat belts?</p> <p>Share this statistic with the students: “Two-thirds of those killed in car crashes were not wearing seat belts.”</p> <p>Ask students if they were surprised by this statistic. Emphasize that wearing a seat belt is a very important thing to do.</p> <p>Students should complete the writing exercise on their handout.</p>
<b>TEACHING STEPS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students should share the answers to the writing exercise.</li> <li>2. Students should then be placed into cooperative learning groups. Each group should be given one of the following hypothetical situations:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. You are riding with one of your friends to the mall to get a birthday present. Your friend doesn’t buckle up. When you ask them to, they respond by saying, “It’s no big deal.” What would you do?</li> <li>b. You’re riding home from soccer practice with a parent of a friend. They aren’t wearing a seat belt. What would you do?</li> <li>c. You really like this boy (or girl) in your English class. You’re out on a date to the latest movie. They say that it’s not really that cool to wear a seat belt. What would you do?</li> <li>d. Your mom is taking you to school one morning, and she’s not wearing her seat belt. She says she is a safe driver and doesn’t worry about wearing one. What would you do?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Each group should create a skit based on their scenario.</li> <li>4. The skit should promote the message that wearing a seat belt is a very important thing.</li> <li>5. Each group should also create three discussion questions based on their skit. These discussion questions should be used after the skit to generate some thought about each situation and how to effectively promote the use of seat belts. Students should make sure that the discussion questions do not just have a yes or no answer.</li> </ol>
<b>EVALUATION</b>	Students should be evaluated on their response during the writing exercise and also during the participation in their group. Groups should be evaluated during their work time and also while they are presenting their skits. Having an audience of younger or older students to watch the skits would make the exercise more meaningful for those involved.
<b>SOURCES</b>	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/teenmvh.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/teenmvh.htm</a> <a href="http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/airbags/buassteens03/index.htm">http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/airbags/buassteens03/index.htm</a>