

Safe Driving— Dealing With Distractions

NATIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS (NHES) 9-12

Standard 2: Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

- 2.12.2 Analyze how the culture supports and challenges health beliefs, practices, and behaviors.
- 2.12.3 Analyze how peers influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.12.7 Analyze how the perceptions of norms influence healthy and unhealthy behaviors.
- 2.12.8 Analyze the influence of personal values and beliefs on individual health practices and behaviors.

Standard 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

- 5.12.5 Predict the potential short-term and long-term impact of each alternative on self and others.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- Identify key factors associated with teenage traffic collisions
- Understand the responsibilities of a newly licensed driver
- Gain a better understanding of consequences associated with inexperienced and distracted driving
- Discuss ways in which behaviors affect safe driving
- Discuss ways to improve their driving
- Identify the rules and allowances of their State Graduated Driver's License Policy

(cont. on page 2) ①

ACTIVITY 1:

Ask students to think about a recent accident they witnessed or learned about on the evening news.

- Ask students to write down a brief description of the crash and the drivers (adults or teenagers)
- Ask students to identify the apparent cause(s) of the crash. See examples of possible causes¹ below
 - Speeding
 - Driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
 - Texting or talking on the phone
 - Changing the radio station/adjusting iPod or other MP3 device
 - Having been deprived of sleep
 - Putting on make-up, fixing hair
 - Eating or drinking
 - Showing off for friends/passengers
 - Following too closely
 - Making unsafe lane changes
 - Looking at a traffic crash or broken down vehicle on the side of the roadway
 - Misjudging speed and/or distance

How many of the common factors did your class identify? Discuss each of the common factors for clarity.

After the discussion, prioritize the common factors as to the cause of most crashes. Conduct research on the Internet or contact the community relations office at your local police department to determine if your class has prioritized the list correctly. You might also consider inviting an officer into class to discuss these issues with the students and show them the impacts of distracted driving. Create a Digital Infomercial or a Digital Vlog for publication in your community or school newspaper, addressing one of the common factors. Include in your Digital Infomercial or Digital Vlog video clips, images, articles, interviews, or other Internet resources you deem effective to make your presentation persuasive.

Suggestions for internet programs you may want to share with students to use for their digital products. Both require registration but are free to use.

- [Animoto](#) allows students to create slide shows and videos.
- [Biteable](#) is another easy-to-use interface for making videos.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Parents Are the Key to Safe Teen Drivers: Eight Danger Zones." Updated October 14, 2015. <https://www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey/danger/index.html>.

ACTIVITY 2:

Did you know some fatal crashes occur because a person may be changing a CD or radio channel? Or they may be on a cell phone? Or texting?

Many fatal crashes in which 16-year-olds were driving involve only the teen's vehicle. Typically, these crashes were high-speed where the driver lost control. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2015, 32% of males between ages 15 and 20 involved in fatal crashes were speeding. Teens are involved in about three times as many crashes as any other age group. In addition, the risk of fatal crashes rises as the number of passengers in the car rises. Six teens die every single day in car crashes².

Create a Digital Prevention Plan in which you research, record, and report on how extraneous factors, such as jewelry, applying make-up, texting, cell calls, or clothes have been a catalyst for an accident. Include in your Digital Prevention Plan video clips, images, interviews, articles, and other Internet resources you deem useful. As a class, present all of your Digital Prevention Plans to your school audience and then make them available for review in the library as reminders for safe driving. In addition, if your school has daily or weekly televised news, present one Digital Prevention Plan per week or per day.

REFERENCES:

- [Motor Vehicle Safety: Distracted Driving.](#)
- [Teens and Distracted Driving](#)

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Teen Drivers: Get the Facts. Updated October 16, 2017.
https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html.