

Fighting Fire With Fire

While technology has remarkably improved and enhanced the way people live their lives today and has significantly simplified everyday tasks, it has also been prone to put people in danger. In modern-day society, technology is extremely important to us as a social species, as it serves as a way to communicate with one another easily and effectively, while keeping us informed and educated on the world around us. But while technology arguably makes us more knowledgeable, the excessive use of technology can “hinder memory rather than enhance it” (Richtel 6). More often than not, the need to be social and reply to a simple text outweighs the threat of not looking at the road while driving, which may result in serious injury or even death. However, many people, especially teens, aren’t readily aware of how perilous texting and driving is and how it may ruin their lives by doing so, which is why avidly promoting such disasters is important, especially for growing teens. There is no real way to completely erase texting and driving; however, there may be a way effectively reduce it—by implementing anti-texting-and-driving ideas into teen driving programs and, ironically, using technology against itself in order to limit drivers with devices.

It’s somewhat unexpected that technology can be seen as a solution to prevent using technology while driving a vehicle, but in reality, technological innovation has also been used to effectively preclude distracted driving. A number of apps have been conceived on cell phones that substantially inhibit the user from using said device while navigating a vehicle. For example, one particular app called “TextLimit” disables any predefined features on the user’s phone when traveling at a certain speed, and another app entitled “Canary”—designed specifically to help prevent teen texting and driving—is setup to notify the child’s parents whenever they text, answer a call, post on social media, or exceed the speed limit, putting control in the adults’ hands. These apps restrict the phone’s capabilities or notify an authority figure when the driver is reportedly using technology when they shouldn’t be using it. Other apps simply block texts, emails, or phone calls, while others read them aloud to the driver so they don’t have to take their eyes off the road. It is incredibly important to notify teenagers early on about the dangers of using technology while driving, and providing them with a way to combat it. Introducing such apps to young teens via Drivers Ed or in school will emphasize the dangers of texting while driving, and significantly reduce the number of teens who actively distract themselves with technology while driving, by proposing easy and accessible ways to potentially save their lives.

There is no doubt that technology is an intensely important aspect of life, but also a dangerous one, at that, and it is incredibly important to draw attention to such dangers. The first step is to put more emphasis on the threat of texting and driving by informing teens of real life examples, and offering a convenient solution to combat the issue. According to *A Deadly Wandering*, when we overload our brains with technology, “there are fewer resources left to make a good decision” (Richtel). The only way to fight disruptive technology is to limit it with productive technology. By showing people the true hazard that texting and driving encourages, they will be more open to the idea of restricting themselves for their own protection, and we can diminish texting and driving.

Works Cited

Richtel, Matt. *A Deadly Wandering*. New York, HarperCollins Publishers.