

In a world where technology is so prevalent to our society, it is difficult to implement instruction not to use a device while driving a vehicle and expect people to abide by that wise advice. According to statistics from the Federal Communications Commission, 660,000 people attempt to use their cell phones while driving every minute each day. This temptation derives from constant usage and reliance on cell phones by modern society. The self-centeredness that infects our human nature can convince us that what is on our phone is more important than what is on the road. It is the simple buzz or alert of a text that rouses curiosity to know what it is we are missing on that little screen in our cupholder. The second time is even worse and more tempting until the suspense gets to us and we eventually resolve that one little look can't hurt. It is usually the thought of "that could never happen to me" that seems to justify our decision. No matter how many horror stories we hear, we tend to think it impossible for the same thing to happen to us and are fooled by this faulty belief. So what kind of didactic must we use to combat this issue when the testimonials, statistics, and warnings don't work? I believe we can try as much as we want to convince drivers to resist this tempting distraction, but in the end it is ultimately up to the individual to decide what matters most--a text or a consequence. The only way to ensure and help drivers make the right choice is to provide penalties for committing this act. When there is incentive to abide by the law, it makes it easier to resist that temptation.

My proposal is that all phones are required to have a feature that tracks the speed one is going and if one texts when that speed goes over 10 mph, a notification is sent to that phone carrier. Upon receiving the notification, the phone company will send a fine in the mail. All fine money will go towards benefits that promote the education and awareness of dangers from texting while driving. Though this solution may seem fairly cut and dry, I believe it will give many people a reason to view their text later rather than allowing the distraction keep them from focusing on the road and people around them. There are uglier consequences that occur when texting while driving causes an accident, so the consequence of a fine should be an appropriate penalty for risking a potential car wreck to happen.

I've seen the consequences through an incident with my sister. Rachael's car accident occurred on a blistery, winter morning when she decided to glimpse at a text from my father. One glance led to sliding tires, screaming sisters, a broken mailbox, and a totaled vehicle. All that for a text that read, "Have a good day." What was so important that my sister had to open the text at that moment? We can ask ourselves that question every day before we allow something like that to happen. Unlike my sister and others less fortunate, we have the power to say no before it is too late. We have the power to make the right choice in order to save something from happening that we might potentially regret. We must do it for our own safety, the safety of others, and in honor of those who lost their lives in tragic events such as these. We owe it to them and we owe it to each other.

#### Works Cited

"The Dangers of Distracted Driving." *Federal Communications Commission*. Federal Communications Commission, 25 Oct. 2016. Web. 16 Feb. 2017.