

## Persuasive Speech Outline

### Anti-Texting & Driving

#### 1. Introduction

- a. Text message conversation followed by a crash.
- b. Texting and Driving is a problem for people of all ages because it is illegal, the rate of accidents and injuries resulting from it is rising, and related psychological problems are becoming more of a factor in everyday life.
- c. A plethora of family, friends, and co-workers have lost loved ones to a car crash from the distraction of their cell-phone.
- d. I will start off the speech describing how texting and driving is dangerous, followed by psychological problems related to the problem, finally finish off with ways to reduce the use of and lower the accident rate from texting and driving.
  - i. Texting and Driving is banned in 44 states in the U.S. including the District of Colombia.

#### 2. Body

##### Main argument #1

- a. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)(2010)
- b. Problem: Texting and Driving is a distraction while driving and it is illegal.  
Solution: Make it illegal in all states, also make the driver put a cellphone in a compartment which then allows for the car to turn on.
  - i. Studies show that drivers who retrieve or send text messages are four times more likely to be in an accident serious enough to injure themselves and/or others.

##### 3. Main argument #2

- a. (Hosking, Young, and Regan 2006; Redelmeier and Tibshirani 1997).
- b. Problem: The rates of injuries and deaths from car crashes due to texting and driving are continuously rising.  
Solution: Change laws, have speakers talk to teens, young adults, and older adults, and advertise via commercials to get the message out.
  - i. Finally, texting and driving can lead to psychological problems for the person while driving and also in regular day life.

#### 4. Main argument #3

- a. Reducing Distracted Driving(2010)
- b. Problem: Related psychological problems for many young teens and young adults are increasingly problematic and affecting them in everyday life.  
Solution: Have support groups with people experiencing the same thing, listen to motivational speakers, and suggest that they stop driving for a certain amount of time.
  - i. Opposing argument #1- If I hold up my phone right at the top of my steering wheel then I can easily see the road and all of my surroundings, plus I can still send all the messages I want to my friends.  
Argument- One is actually taking a bigger risk by doing this action, because it is not only blocking vision of some surroundings of the driver, but also it is in one's peripheral vision while attempting to multitask.
  - ii. Losing a family member, friend, or even someone you just met is a tough thing to do, especially if you could have helped prevented it. The first way to prevent this is to just put down the phone when you drive.

#### 5. Conclusion

- a. In conclusion, texting and driving affects not only the driver, but also victims in the same car, the other car in the accident, and all of the friends and family that are involved with the people which are involved in the accident.
- b. Texting and Driving is a problem for people of all ages because it is illegal, the rate of accidents and injuries is rising, and related psychological problems are becoming more of a factor in everyday life.
- c. Everyone has issues that they have to deal with, but breaking the law does no good for anyone. Distractions are presented at any given time, but one can choose not to distract themselves with electronics to prevent any accidents while driving. Emotions can drive everyone crazy which can be helped, but also prevented when not in use of phones during texting and driving.
- d. Don't be another statistic when it comes to texting and driving. Be considerate of others around you. If you have to be on your phone, pull over to the side of the road. Do not worry about what anybody else thinks just turn your blinker on and get over. You might think you are fine driving, but someone or something can easily dart out of nowhere. Those few split seconds you lost because of texting can mean the difference between life and death.

## References

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 08 Nov. 2010. Distracted Driving: Laws and Fines

Hosking, Young, and Regan 2006; Redelmeier and Tibshirani 1997. Injuries: Safe Driving

Jacobson, P., and L. Costin. "Reducing Distracted Driving: Regulation and Education to Avert Traffic Injuries and Fatalities." JAMA 303.14 (2010): 1419. Research Library,

## Persuasive Speech

Boy: Sup Girl?

Girl: Hey boyfrand

Boy: You want me to come over and bring you that sugar?

Girl: Yeah, come over in 15 minutes because Steve is here helping me with homework

Boy: What? Your cheating on my with crazy Steve? That's it im coming over and settling this once and for all.

Girl: Babe do not be like this we just have chemistry... I mean chemistry homework...

Boy: I cannot believe you right now, I am coming over.

Girl: No do not come over I don't want to see you.

Boy: Too late I am already on my way, I cannot wait to BAAAAAM!!!!!!!

When was the last time you were driving and got a text message? Was it today, on your way to work or school? Or was it yesterday on the way to your friend's house? You receive the text message and divert your attention away from the road and you're driving. Whether it is at the traffic light while you are stopped or while cruising down the road. In that split second it takes you to look down at your phone and respond to the message you are more likely to be involved in an accident as you become distracted. Now, imagine you are driving down the road on the way to the store and you get a text message from your friend. You check the traffic before you respond to the message; there is a smooth flow of traffic. The text message reads something like, "Hey what are you doing?" You continue to drive and you begin to respond to the text message; "nothing heading to the..." when all of a sudden you look up and there is a sudden stop in traffic, but it is too late for you to stop and you smash into the vehicle in front of you. You erase what you were just typing and respond, "Just got into an accident! OMFG." Texting while driving is dangerous and has evolved as a major problem occurring everywhere over the years and the best most affordable solution for texting while driving is to simply prevent it in the first place as well as to provide "tools" to reduce the need to physically divert your attention from the road and your driving experience.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration roughly 9,000 people have died to a car crash from texting and driving in the past five years. Also, almost one million people have been injured in the past 5 years from a texting and driving car accident. Texting and Driving is a problem for people of all ages because it is illegal, the rate of accidents and injuries resulting from it is rising, and related psychological problems are becoming more of a factor in everyday life. I will continue the speech describing how texting and driving is dangerous, followed by discussing the increase of the rate of accidents and injuries, finally finish off with the physiological problems that are affected from texting and driving.

First, Texting and Driving is banned in 44 states in the U.S. including the District of Colombia. This law was mostly passed not to make it unfair for people who enjoy texting, but it is to make it safer for all drivers on the road. Texting while driving hands on is dangerous as it is a major distraction and leads to accidents. There are many

distractions that many drivers face while driving. Answering calls, multi-tasking, loud music, reading directions, negative emotional stress, and texting while driving are all common examples of distractions while driving. All of these examples take away a driver's focus on driving. Texting while driving requires you to occasionally glance at your phone and to keep only one hand on the wheel which is a dangerous combination. According to an article taken from [texting-while-driving.org](http://texting-while-driving.org) by Lesley Pinkston, it states, "texting while driving takes away three critical things needed for safe driving: your hands, your eyes, and your concentration. When you drive and text you run a high risk of getting into an accident" ([Texting-while-driving.org](http://Texting-while-driving.org)). Pinkston argues that three components of safe driving are taken away with texting and driving; your hands, eyes, and concentration. I agree with Pinkston because by taking away these three aspects of driving, these are what make texting while driving so dangerous and such a major distraction which results in unsafe driving and the increase of accidents. One of many solutions on this issue could be to install a compartment that one has to put their phone in to be able to start the car.

Next, studies show that drivers who retrieve or send text messages are four times more likely to be in an accident serious enough to injure themselves and/or others. There are numerous accident reports, some more fatal than others, that report the cause of accidents by the means of texting. According to AAA auto insurance, "50% of teenage drivers admit to texting while driving," (AAA Auto Insurance). Also, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration "5,870 people died in car accidents in 2010. An additional 515,000 people were injured. 28% of all accidents in 2010 were caused by drivers between the ages of 18 and 29 that were texting while driving," (NHTSA). These statistics are alarming as the number of people texting while driving continues to grow every day. With the increase of drivers who text more accidents are likely to occur. In the past five years the rates of texting and driving accidents have been increasing and show no signs of slowing down. People who have admitted to texting and driving claim that it has become a habit and they do not see the issue behind texting and driving. Although people think that they have made it this far without getting to an accident do not realize that they are not the only ones who text and drive. A person could mealy just back out of their garage and could be hit by someone going minimal speed but the cause is still texting and driving. Solutions to this problem could be as easy as putting the phone in a lock compartment so the driver is not tempted to pick it up and use it or as simply as turning off the phone.

Finally, texting and driving can lead to psychological problems for the person while driving and also in regular day life. Addiction is what drives the behavior. There is a psychological mechanism where [people] deny the fact that this one instance will not be dangerous. That is a complete cognitive distortion. And this flies in the face of the fact that they know intellectually that it's dangerous," Greenfield said. Indeed, drivers are deluding themselves if they believe they can multitask. "It is difficult for pretty much everyone to do several things at once. In fact, studies have shown that people who have the most confidence that they can multitask are actually the worst at it," Earl K. Miller, Ph.D., Picower Professor of Neuroscience at MIT, told Foxnews.com. Miller continued.

“They don’t multitask more because they are better at it. They multitask more because they are sensation-seeking and impulsive. They rationalize their behavior with an inflated confidence in their multitasking abilities.” People who send text messages typically expect a message to come back. During this time they anticipate what the other person is going to say, what they think of the text message the person sent, or contemplating how the person feels about them. During this time people space out and go on thinking about everything possible except driving. All it takes is one second to look at that bird that flew by your window and BAM!! Now you are just another statistic to the deaths caused by texting and driving. This does not stop here, studies have also shown that those who state that they do text and drive, perform less effectively in the classroom, work, or even in sports. These people are typically more distracted not entirely from a cell-phone, but from other distracting causes. People who suffer from the psychological problem are not alone, and can get help by meeting with other people who have the same problem and talking about ways to fix the problem before it is too late.

In conclusion, texting and driving affects not only the driver, but also victims in the same car, the other car in the accident, and all of the friends and family that are involved with the people which are involved in the accident. Texting and Driving is a problem for people of all ages because it is illegal, the rate of accidents and injuries is rising, and related psychological problems are becoming more of a factor in everyday life. Everyone has issues that they have to deal with, but breaking the law does no good for anyone. Distractions are presented at any given time, but one can choose not to distract themselves with electronics to prevent any accidents while driving. Emotions can drive everyone crazy which can be helped, but also prevented when not in use of phones during texting and driving. Don't be another statistic when it comes to texting and driving. Be considerate of others around you. If you have to be on your phone, pull over to the side of the road. Do not worry about what anybody else thinks just turn your blinker on and get over. You might think you are fine driving, but someone or something can easily dart out of nowhere. Those few split seconds you lost because of texting can mean the difference between life and death.