

Although it is controversial, I think that a good way to reduce the incidents of students driving under the influence is to make more driving alternatives available to those students who consume intoxicants. I have a few ideas as to what can be done to accomplish this. We could create a student car service within a group so that one person from that group doesn't abuse any substances that night. To make sure that no one who is driving does drink, each designated driver could wear a neon bracelet that says "I'm driving tonight, so we'll all arrive alive!". I have always been the type of person to drive everyone home when they needed a ride, and I can be depended on to not drink. For designated drivers that have trouble with peer pressure, this bracelet would show everyone not to offer any alcohol or else they don't have a ride home. Everyone drinking that night should stick together to support his or her designated driver.

I also think that adults should have a 'not tonight' pledge. They should promise that if their student driver contacts them for a ride they will comply and take them home safe and without a cross examination about what they were doing and , if they have been drinking, until the next day. A lot of students would call their parents for a ride if they knew the parent would not get mad then and would wait discuss their concerns the next morning.

Another idea to prevent drinking and driving or teens is a key monster. There should be someone who is sober to take all students keys when they enter a house and keep them for the night. Everyone should support parties where everyone finds alternative ways to get home. Just to be safe, this person should take the box with the keys to a secure place. Then, even if someone tries to bribe or threaten them, it won't

work because the keys are outside the area. If the teens needed to get home later, than they could call a taxi, walk, or find a sober driver.

I know that many parents would think that these ideas only encourage drinking, that is a fair consideration but it is not the goal of these programs. The goal of these programs is to reduce the number of students who drive after getting intoxicated. Society has tried for years to discourage young people from drinking. I do not think the number of kids using intoxicants has declined very much. I do not think that these ideas will lead to more drinking but they will reduce the number of drinking kids who drive. I think that if a sober driver was made more readily available then fewer teens drive drunk. Hopefully other programs could work to reduce generally the usage of intoxicants by students.