

Nick Clark

Arrive Alive, Put Your Phone Away

It's a sad fact that we live in a time where a person cares more about sending their friends pictures or text messages than making sure they get home safe. As a teen driver, I like to think teenagers are responsible and respectful when it comes to the rules of the road, but this is just not the case a lot of the time. I will be driving down the road to go shopping when I pull up to a red light. I turn my head to look at the car next to me only to see a teenager behind the wheel, busy looking at their phone only occasionally glancing up to see if the light has turned green. This is extremely irresponsible and may seem like it is not normal, but it happens all the time. Teens are so caught up in appearances and social media that it becomes their lives. They have to respond to that text or snap their friend back even while they are driving. It is really a dangerous choice and a lot of people don't seem to grasp this concept.

When I hear people talking about reducing the use of electronics while driving it is almost always an adult. Someone who has been driving a long time and is comfortable doing so. They think that there is some magical solution to stop teens from using electronics by having an ad campaign, applications, or an awareness day. These are all helpful ideas to stop teens from using their phones while driving but it has not been completely successful. I feel that the one thing that is never talked about during these discussions is the adults themselves. As we grow up technology advances with us and has become an everyday part of our lives whether we like it or not. Teens have

grown up with technology, but this was not always the case for adults. Children and teens need strong role models and people in their lives to teach them right from wrong and when a child sees their parent do something they think it is ok for them to do the same thing.

It is not always a teen driver who is on their phone while driving, adults are guilty too. I have ridden with adults who have taken their phones out at red lights and even when driving down the road. And as a teen when I confront an adult with my opinion it is not taken seriously. They always have some excuse for texting and driving, it is usually something along the line of, I have been driving a lot longer then you or I know what is best. When we see our parents do something we copy it and this is the case with electronics and driving. Whether the adult wants to admit it or not they are the first step in stopping teens from texting and driving. They need to stop making excuses and put their phone away and show their child what is right. It may not even be something the adult or teen consciously does, but something that is done so often in their car that they forget how dangerous it is.

According to Edgar Snyder and Associates “660,000 people try to use their phone while behind the wheel every day” and “1.6 million accidents are caused by people using their phone while driving every year”. People using their phones forget this or even make some excuse when behind the wheel but it is time to stop this from happening. Adults and teens need to put away their phones and pay attention to the road. I believe that if adults stop using their phones while driving and show their children, then teens will be less likely to use their phones. Sadly, there is no magical

solution that will stop everyone from using electronics and driving but it is something that can be accomplished little by little, starting with adults.

Work Cited

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