

Kat Jenkins

Ms. Stein

English 12 Adv. P6

29 October 2019

Jamie was with her friend, Gretchen, who was driving her around, blasting music with no cares in the world. Gretchen's phone goes off and she does what every other teenager does and picks it up to read the notification. *Carter liked your post.* She smiles while she gazes at her phone screen until it goes black. She looks up just in time to see the stop sign and slams on the brakes. "That was a close one" Jamie says as they watch the 18 wheeler speed through the intersection.

They continue their leisurely drive around town. Soon enough, the oh-so-familiar **ding** of Gretchen's cell phone goes off and history repeats itself as she reaches down to grab it. Jamie doesn't think twice about the seemingly normal act until she looks up to see they have swerved onto the other side of the road and are about to crash. "Gretchen stop!" she screams. Panic streams through their veins as the windshield shatters and airbags release. Gretchen looks around but all she sees is broken glass and blood. "Jamie, are you okay?" she fearfully asks, fully aware that she is the reason this happened. Jamie lay unconscious in the seat next to her, blood dripping down her forehead. Gretchen looks around for her phone and spots it on the ground, the notification still lit up on the screen.

At the hospital, Gretchen is told the news that the passengers in the other car didn't make it. Jamie is in surgery in critical condition and it is unknown if she will make it. Gretchen, on the other hand, got away with just a few scratches and whiplash. In a state of shock, she is also

confronted with the fact that she will be going to court for the manslaughter of the victims. *How could this have happened? I only looked away for one second and now people are dead because of me!*

Approximately 9 people die every day in the United States due to distracted driving. It's estimated that 660,000 drivers use an electronic device behind the wheel every day. Going just 25mph it takes under 30 seconds to drive 100 feet. Looking down at a phone for a "few seconds" could be the same few seconds someone is crossing the street or it could mean losing control of the vehicle. Unfortunately, everyone has the "it could never happen to me" mentality. Until it does happen to them, people will continue to drive while distracted unless the message is able to get out to them before it happens.