

Ethan Sadowski

Mrs. Stein

English 12A

P4

### Wake-Up Call

It was a dark and stormy night. My friends and I headed out on a road trip we'd been planning for about a week or so. We were all extremely excited, listening to Kanye the whole way there, and I can't forget the laughter that never seemed to stop. Little did we know, that our adventure that was supposed to lead us to beautiful Miami Beach would soon take a dangerous turn and teach us a life-changing lesson.

As the passenger, my job was to navigate and make sure the music was just right. Jake insisted we let him drive that night so we did. Here's the problem, none of us knew but Jake had been working long hours all week at the warehouse and was well behind on sleep. We were about 2 hours into our adventure as the rain intensified, making seeing the road increasingly difficult. I looked over at Jake and noticed his constant yawning and droopy eyes.

We told him to take a break and let one of us drive though he insisted he was okay to drive. I got more worried as I noticed Jake started to look worse. He started to look really tired and even swerved a couple of times. We turned off the music and that laughter that was seemingly never-ending found an end. We were all starting to really worry.

Jake's eyes shut for a second too long and he started to lose control of the car. The tires screeched as he tried to control the car. It was too late. We smashed into a

guardrail. That guardrail probably saved our lives that night. The car came to a stop and the silence inside the car was deafening. We checked on Jake who was shaken up but somehow not hurt at all.

It got worse as we noticed another vehicle that was involved in the accident. They must've swerved and crashed trying to avoid our car that was spiraling out of control across the median and into the guardrail. They hit a tree. A mother and her two children were in that car. A family was in that car. By the time the ambulance arrived, it was too late. The mother passed away. The children ended up okay although they are left forever scarred by this tragic night.

I started to feel guilt and that pit in my stomach ran deeper. My friends and I should have stopped Jake from driving the minute we noticed him yawning but we didn't. We could have prevented this terrible night. That night was a wake-up call for all of us. We learned that no destination is worth driving to while tired. That night forever gives me the chills and I will always regret not making the responsible choice and taking over as the driver that night.