

Scholarship Essay

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Drinking and driving serves as one of the deadliest causes of car accidents among teenagers. This selfish action, however, is completely unnecessary, and can be stopped with the proper education of young adults. By showing teenagers just how their actions can affect the rest of their lives and the lives of others, students may be able to understand the detriments of distracted driving.

I believe that one of the reasons students still continue to drink and drive is because they do not fully understand the potential consequences of their actions. Teens would rather put themselves, their peers, and other innocent drivers in danger by drinking and getting behind the wheel than calling and asking for a ride home. Students feel compelled to drink as a result of wishing to fit in and be deemed “cool” by their peers. However, the risk of a deadly consequence certainly outweighs one’s desire to receive acceptance from their peers. By seeing first-hand what their decision to drive under the influence could impact their life, I believe that students would reconsider their decisions.

One way I would try and convince my peers to stop drinking and driving would be to host a “mock accident” assembly at my old high school. Students would get to see exactly what happens on the front lines of an accident scene by seeing a decrepit car resulting from an accident caused unnecessarily by selfishly drinking and driving.

Students would then have to go through a school day without their peers involved in the accident (and have no form of cellular contact with them either), allowing for students to realize the true impact of losing a friend to driving under the influence.

Family testimonies can be shown, displaying the raw emotions of parents and siblings after learning about the accident, which would surely hit close to home for students. So often, students think “it can’t happen to me, it won’t happen to me,” until it does. By seeing how their actions can affect their family members, students will be compelled to keep this in mind as they proceed to make a destructive decision, such as drunk driving.

After 24 hours away from their normal life, the simulation can end. Students, families, faculty members, and first responders can testify just what they had learned and what their

experience had been like after losing their friends for a day to a car accident that could have been so easily prevented.

Through actions such as those described above, I believe that students can understand the impact of their choices and terminate drunk driving as a result. By seeing the reactions of families torn apart by such a selfless act, experiencing a day at school without their peers, and by witnessing a mock accident and seeing the damage one wrong decision can make to an entire family, student body, school, and community, I believe that students will take away a valuable lesson that can influence their future decisions regarding driving under the influence.