

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Friday, May 13 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Textalyzer push (NW Autos, page D1).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. What is distracted driving? What kind of things might cause you to be distracted while driving? Why is distracted driving a problem? What can be done to stop distracted driving?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

A. array	1. occurring before or in preparation; introductory
B. bipartisan	2. the act of stopping something happening, operating, etc. for a period of time
C. devastating	3. a plan or action for achieving a goal; a maneuver
D. equivalent	4. very new and different from what is traditional or ordinary
E. fatalities	5. equal in value, amount, function, meaning, etc.
F. hurdles	6. deaths resulting from an accident or disaster
G. orchestrated	7. a written document signed by a large number of people demanding some form of action from a government or other authority
H. petition	8. large group of things or people
I. preliminary	9. to arrange or combine so as to achieve a desired or maximum effect
J. provocative	10. causing anger or another strong reaction, especially deliberately
K. radical	11. of, relating to, or involving members of two parties
L. suspension	12. an obstacle or difficulty.
M. tactics	13. highly destructive or damaging.

Comprehension

1. By what percent did road fatalities increase in 2015?
2. What organization did Candace Lightner found?
3. The textalyzer is the digital equivalent of what?
4. What would the textalyzer policy do?
5. What are some of the main concerns that might create a hurdle for the proposed legislation?
6. What might happen if the legislation passes In New York?
7. What does Lightner say the intensifying efforts around distracted driving are equivalent to?
8. Who is Evan Lieberman? How does he relate to the law?

Additional Activities

1. Do you think that the proposed law violates people's privacy? Why/why not? What other positives do you see about the textalyzer policies? What negatives do you see about the textalyzer policies? What alternative ideas can you think of that might help encourage people to minimize distracted driving? Write a letter to one of your state legislators discussing your position on Evan's law and whether you think your state should adopt it.
2. Create a Public Service Announcement about the dangers of distracted driving. In your announcement, make sure to explain what distracted driving is and why people should avoid it. Write a script, citing information from reliable sources, and present it to your class.

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2016 The Seattle Times Company

Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 8
- B. 11
- C. 13
- D. 5
- E. 6
- F. 12
- G. 9
- H. 7
- I. 1
- J. 10
- K. 4
- L. 2
- M. 3

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. By what percent did road fatalities increase in 2015? **Road fatalities increased by 8 percent in 2015.**
2. What organization did Candace Lightner found? **Candace Lightner is the founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.**
3. The textalyzer is the digital equivalent of what? **The textalyzer is the digital equivalent of the Breathalyzer.**
4. What would the textalyzer policy do? **It would give police a way to catch multitasking drivers by allowing them to analyze their phones for recently sent texts.**
5. What are some of the main concerns that might create a hurdle for the proposed legislation? **Privacy concerns.**
6. What might happen if the legislation passes In New York? **If it were to pass in New York, it could well spread in the same way that the hands-free rules did.**
7. What does Lightner say the intensifying efforts around distracted driving are equivalent to? **Lightner says the intensifying efforts around distracted driving “are the equivalent of the early ‘80s” in drunken driving, when pressure led to tougher laws.**
8. Who is Evan Lieberman? How does he relate to the law? **The law is named Evan’s Law for Evan Lieberman, who died after being asleep in the back of a car when the driver was texting and lost control.**