

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

September 15, 2016

Article: "Steering Teens to Safety"

Sunday, September 11, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, Special Section, pages J4 and J5

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly

Objective:

Students will engage in a discussion about distracted driving after reading the Newspapers In Education Supplement, "Steering Teens to Safety".

Pre-Reading:

Before reading the supplement, read the title and look at the photographs on the cover. What do you think are the most important teen driver safety tips to remember? What about learning to drive are you excited or nervous about?

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today's article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the "context," or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

ban

collision

crucial

defensive

distraction

factors

fatalities

fatigue

handheld

hazards

intoxicated

Passenger

Peer

roadway

scanning

tempting

Comprehension:

1. What percentage of 12- to 17-year olds say they have been in a car where a teen driver used a cell phone in an unsafe way?
2. How is crash risk affected by the numbers of peer passengers in the car?
3. What are the common critical errors inexperienced teen drivers make that can lead to serious crashes?
4. Teens often view their driver license as a sign of what?
5. What is the 3-second rule?
6. How does a small increase in speed translate to an increase in collision energy?
7. What age group uses their seatbelts the least?
8. What fraction of teens killed in crashes were not wearing seat belts?
9. What is defensive driving?
10. Which is more dangerous, hand held or hands-free cell phone use while driving?
11. How many hours of sleep are recommended for teen drivers?
12. Which age group is the majority of fatigue related crashes caused by?

Post-Reading:

Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:

“There are a number of behaviors that can be considered distracted driving. Some of these may seem so commonplace that you may not even consider them to be dangerous, such as eating, grooming, reading (maps or navigation systems), or even changing radio stations while driving.”

What other behaviors might count as distracted driving? Have you ever been in a car where someone was doing one of these behaviors? How would you feel as a passenger in a car with a

distracted driver? What are some other ways you can think of to help prevent distracted driving?

Building Language Skills:

Read the following passage and complete the activity below:

“Although teens and other may not realize it, any cell phone use while driving, whether hands held or hands-free, is dangerous. Many states also ban the use of cell phones, including hands-free devices, for novice teen drivers.”

Have a partner read a page of a book out loud for you, and try to write out the alphabet. How did you feel while trying to complete this task? How does this relate to texting and driving? Why is multitasking in cars unsafe? Write out a plan of action that you can use next time you are tempted to text and drive (or if you are in the car with someone who is texting and driving).

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. 40 percent
2. Your crash risk doubles if you have one peer passenger and more than triples if you have two or more passengers.
3. Peer passengers can be dangerous because they take your focus off the road and lower your reaction time for dealing with potential hazards.
4. Lack of scanning to detect and respond to hazards, driving too fast for road conditions, and being distracted by something inside or outside of the vehicle are common critical errors inexperienced teen drivers make.
5. Teens often view their driver license as a sign that they are grown up.
6. The 3-second rule is the time needed to avoid a collision.
7. For example, teens driving 40 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone may think they're "only" going 10 m.p.h. over the posted speed limit. But that "small" increase in speed translates to a 78 percent increase in collision energy.
8. Teens use their seatbelts the least.
9. Two-thirds of teens killed in crashes were not wearing seat belts.
10. Defensive driving is a set of skills that help protect you from common dangers caused by bad drivers.
11. Both hand held and hands-free cell phone use while driving is dangerous.
12. Eight hours of sleep are recommended for teen drivers.
13. Drivers under the age of 25