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Drunk Driving

A party is going on all around me, my family is boisterously singing and dancing to the music booming from small speakers as alcohol is being passed around by the adults as if it was water. I see beers, rum, tequila, and vodka being passed around by people that I have known all my life and I wonder if any of these people will soon put themselves behind the wheel of a car that could potentially lead them to their demise due to their decision of drinking and driving. As the party starts ending I hear people whisper to each other excuses, "The alcohol is out of my system, I am ok to drive", or "Don't worry I can make it home easy, I only had a few drinks" and I realize that through the mist of the party and the good time that everyone is having no one is noticing the extremely dangerous situations that some family members are about to get into.

Many teenagers, like me, grow up seeing these situations as normal. They are allowed to drink in the safety of their house when their family is present and when they start getting older they think drinking with their friends is going to be way more interesting than with their family. Teens love the idea of doing things that adults will not approve of, they love the thrill of doing something illegal and do not often realize the effects that their actions have. We all know that drinking is illegal until we reach the age of twenty-one yet I have been often being put in a

position where I have been offered alcohol without anyone caring about my age. I always decline, because as a teen driver I have always been careful of what I am doing when I am about to get into a car. Yet other teenagers do not think like me. They want to have fun, they want to drink, and then they expect to get in the car and get home safely without thinking of all the things that could potentially go wrong. When teenagers drive drunk they do not think of the other people that are on the road, they avoid thinking of all the people they are endangering when they make the decision to drive drunk, and selfishly get behind the wheel.

As humans, we often put ourselves in situations that we may not realize put us in dangerous situations, we think we can control our bodies and state of minds all of the time without realizing that the substances we slip into our bodies can affect the way we view and perceive things. Some people drink and drive, thinking that it will only be a short drive until they make it home safely, others do it for the thrill of doing something illegal, while others simply decide to ignore the consequences that their actions can bring, yet we do not realize that all of these things can bring harm not only to ourselves, but the innocent drivers that are also sharing the road with someone that inebriated. We see campaigns and statistics everywhere that tell us of the dangers of consuming alcohol and how it may affect us, yet we continue doing these things thinking it is unlikely that we will become one more number in the sea of statistic people recite to us every day in the hope that we finally get the point and stop drinking and driving.

Both teens and adults have been known for getting into situations where they are driving drunk, but teenagers can have been known to cause more problems than average due to their recklessness. Teenagers should not be illegally drinking, and even less driving while on those situations. They do not think of the financial, legal, mental, and physical problems that they might get into when they put themselves in those positions. We often, as teenagers, see adults doing things that they should not be doing and decide we are going to copy those actions without realizing the burden we and our families will go through if something horrible were to occur.

With that said, we need to start more initiatives and campaign to stop teens from committing these acts, we can act out scenes of drinking and driving in schools so that students understand the severity of the situation. As unpleasant as it is, we can make explicit TV commercials that show the results of drinking and driving to shock people into doing the right thing and we can implement rewards and punishments from car and health insurance companies to encourage people to not drink and drive. Teenagers are a hard audience to get a point across but as uncomfortable as it may be, we can recount stories of other teenagers who thought they could cheat the system by drunk driving, and how they life was ruined because of it. I believe that all of the aforementioned things along with speaking with our family members, and friends can start making the change that is necessary for the improvement of our society. We all have dreams

and goals that we want to accomplish and so we should not make dumb choices that will endanger everything we have worked towards.