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Driving while texting, we all think as teenagers that something like this is not serious or that our parents and mentors are just "dragging" it out but texting while driving is dangerous; it can end your life or someone else's life in an instant. The consequences of texting while driving are endless, from car accidents to killing someone.

There are many stories about young teens that ignored the message of not texting and driving at the same time. It's not just a saying, but a warning.

Amanda had a story to tell, 19-year-old sister was killed. She wasn't killed by a bullet, or didn't get killed by drowning or any other bizarre accident. She died because of a text message. On May 16th 2009 her sister was driving and texting. She was texting when her truck entered the median and flipped her truck over several times before being ejected, and dying. Another story: Bailey Goodman age 17, was killed along with four of her fellow cheerleaders when she swerved into oncoming traffic, hit a tractor-trailer and her SUV burst into flames. The crazy part was that five days earlier the five girls graduated from high school and were now starting a life as adults. When officers got to the scene they found out those 12 minutes before the crash were reported, her phone was used to send a text greeting a friend. Ashley D. Miller, age 18, veered into oncoming traffic and hit another car head-on while she was texting. She and the other driver, a 40-year-old mother of one were instantly killed. When you text and drive you are not only putting yourself in harm's way, but those who surround also.

The consequences of texting while driving are endless, from car accidents to getting a ticket to hitting someone. Research done by The Children's hospital of Philadelphia and the State Farm Insurance found that when teens (because these are the ages who most do this) who frequently engage in cell phone use while driving also have had the following problems;

- Getting lost or forgetting something
- Not being able to pay close attention to their surroundings
- Accidents and other avoidable accidents

Students who follow the rules of driving and refrain from using their phones while driving say the benefits of this are;

- Being able to pay better attention to their driving
- Being less likely to have a crash/ or an accident
- Following the law

So I believe that texting while driving is over-rated, everything that it causes is not worth it. So in conclusion there are many reasons why we shouldn't drive and text because driving and texting should never be mixed. We have to get more involved with this cause and tell teens to remember "DRIVE NOW, TEXT LATER!"

Jasmine Kent

Consequences texting while driving

On May 22, 2008 17 year Dana Trammell was texting someone on her phone the first day of senior year. She crashed and was thrown from the car and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Bailey Goodman 17, was killed along with four of her fellow cheerleaders when she swerved into oncoming traffic, hit a tractor-trailer and her SUV burst into flames. Five days earlier, the five teenagers had graduated from high school. Two minutes before the crash was reported, her phone was used to send a text message greeting to a friend.

Just on August 5, 2011 in Council Bluffs two teens were killed due to texting while driving.

Statistics says that one third of teens 16 and 17 have texted while driving and that is the age range that has more fatal accidents.*(<http://mashable.com/2009/11/16/teens-dangerous-driving/>)

I feel as a 17- year- old senior I shouldn't have to watch the news or read stories about teen death as a result of talking or texting while driving. It hurts my heart to see my generation dying over something so stupid that can be avoided by simply placing your phone on vibrate or silent and responding when your destination has been reached. As a teen it is very easy to get distracted while driving; you might see a cute boy or girl walking past or maybe even your friends. You were so distracted by looking at the pedestrians you didn't notice the car in front of you and you just caused an accident by rear-ending the car in front of you. It is very important to be a defensive driver. As an unskilled teenage driver myself, all of my undivided attention should be on the road.

The biggest distractions for teens are:

- 1. texting**
- 2. talking on the phone**
- 3. friends in car**
- 4. music**
- 5. eating or drinking**

Senior year for me has finally arrived. I am planning on driving to school. I, Jasmine, don't want to be another statistic. So for me to be a responsible and defensive driver, other people safe and keep my parents' trust and car insurance low means that I will give all my undivided attention to the road. The friends, phone, food, and music can wait until I'm from behind the wheel and off of the road.

Driving while texting or talking on the phone can lead to very dangerous consequences, even fatal. Don't be another statistic.