

Writing Assessment #2: Dec. 2011: Teen Driving

Prompt: Your state legislature is considering a bill that would require a person to earn a high school diploma before he or she could receive a driver's license. What is your position on this issue? Write a letter to convince your state legislature to accept your point of view.

Role: Concerned citizen

Audience: State legislature representative

Format: Letter

Issue: Should a diploma be required before a teenager can legally drive? (See prompt above)

Online resources for stats and facts:

<http://www.coloradolaw.net/news/teen-car-accidents.html>

- Infographic with facts and stats
- Possible causes, related issues
- Graduated licensing
- Links to valid resources

<http://www.theautoinsurance.com/the-worst-driver-in-america/>

- Infographic comparing/contrasting teen drivers and elderly drivers
- Short article with additional information, causes, and arguments

http://www.rmiia.org/auto/teens/Teen_Driving_Statistics.asp

- Fact lists of national teen driving statistics and Colorado teen driving statistics from the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association.

Use standard five-paragraph persuasive essay structure within the letter format.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Select interest-arousing intro strategy
 - B. Write strong opinion thesis (simple, O/P, or key term)
- II. 2nd strongest argument
 - A. Write strong opinion topic sentence
 - B. Use accordion paragraph structure and sandwich your facts/stats/info
 - C. Use clincher sentence
- III. 3rd strongest argument
 - A. Write strong opinion topic sentence
 - B. Use accordion paragraph structure and sandwich your facts/stats/info
 - C. Use clincher sentence
- IV. Strongest argument
 - A. Write strong opinion topic sentence
 - B. Use accordion paragraph structure and sandwich your facts/stats/info
 - C. Use clincher sentence
- V. Conclusion:
 - A. Explain the "so what" or "why this is important".
 - B. Select appropriate concluding device such as call for action or alternative solution

1. Review the resources for arguments and supporting details you can use.
2. Create a pro/con chart
3. Complete the graphic organizer
4. Write essay following all of the key rules of persuasive writing we have discussed in class.
5. Submit essay to Holt online. Complete tinyurl.
6. Print essay and holistic score and subset feedback. Staple to graphic organizer and give to Mrs. Jones.