



Downloads

- Lesson plan
- Student handout

Materials

- Newspapers
- Paper
- Computers
- Photocopier

Tips

- Scan the local newspaper for recent motor vehicle related incidents so students can react in a timely manner.
- No Regrets teams can write letters to the editor outside of a classroom setting by using examples found in the lesson plan and relating their letters to current newspaper articles.
- Well written and insightful letters can be sent into local or national newspapers to spread awareness of the issue of injury in youth to a larger audience.

Capturing Results

- Take pictures of students writing their letters and send them in to SMARTRISK or post them on the Facebook page.
- Let us know if you hear back from a newspaper or if any of your letters were published.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper can be a very effective way to promote the issue of injury among youth related to motor vehicles. This activity can be done by your No Regrets team or as part of a writing assignment in an English class.

Background

- Newly licensed adolescent drivers have extraordinarily high crash rates. In fact, in Canada, car crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers between the ages of 15-19.
- By writing letters to the editor of a local or national newspaper, students have the opportunity to draw attention to various issues surrounding teen drivers such as seatbelt use, distracted driving, drinking and driving, and the use of the word 'accident'.
- This activity focuses on developing students' communication skills by showing them how to properly write a letter to the editor and become engaged within their community.

The Activity

The following steps are guidelines for you to write a Letter to the Editor in your school. Feel free to make the activity your own so that it is relevant to your classroom, school, or community.

- Detailed instructions on how teachers can run the Letter to the Editor lesson can be found in the downloadable lesson plan. The following instructions are for student leaders who wish to engage English teachers in implementing the lesson in their classes.
- Approach an English teacher with a printed version of the activity download as well as the lesson plan, student handout, and rubric.
- Ask if you can leave the resources with the teacher to review and follow up in a couple of days. When you follow up with the teacher, ask if they would be willing to implement the lesson in their English classes.
- Ask your staff adviser to reinforce the importance of the message and to encourage the English department to include it in their classes.
- If the teacher requires your assistance, present to participating English classes on the issue of injury among youth related to motor vehicles. Focus on the specific topic(s) that the teacher has selected for their class to write about.
- Attend a writing period to be available to field questions from students as they begin writing their letters.

Promote:

Buckle Up

look first

Wear the Gear

Get Trained

Drive Sober