ESL 263 WA#3

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Name: Brad

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Solving Distracted Driving Through Better Enforcement and Technology

Distracted driving can be reduced by better enforcement of the laws. The current anti-texting and anti-distraction laws themselves are effective if they are enforced properly.(Describe distracted driving in relation to distracted driving)(sen: Describe the current laws) For instance, Heather’s Law prohibits texting behind the wheel in the state of Maryland(Mayerowitz 2). This law punishes drivers who ignore it by giving harsh fines up to $500. But the statutes like Heather’s Law are not enforced properly due to the inability of the law enforcement agencies to hold drivers accountable for their actions. Drivers hide their phones from police, highway patrol and traffic cameras to avoid getting caught. This lack of visibility from drivers hiding their phones is the case for better enforcement and can be achieved through technology. Highway speeding was reduced due to traffic cameras being installed. The same can be achieved with cellphones. Cellphones have GPS and sensors; police and highway patrol can use them to determine if the drivers have been using their phones on the road by matching the usage records to the sensors’ data. This fact demonstrates the possibility that distracted driving can be cut down through better law enforcement by technology.

In addition to enhancing enforcement, technology itself can be a way to the reducing distracted driving. Thousands of new apps are in development to help drivers stay focused. For example, I have personally developed an anti-distraction app called stayDash. I designed the app to keep the drivers’ attention to the road by switching off the smartphones’ battery. The app uses GPS and gyro-sensors, a sensor that track the movement of a smartphone by measuring force exertion on the phone. Apps like stayDash are effective in reducing distracted driving by helping many drivers stay focused by recognize when it should stay turned off, reducing the potential for distractions. They are also more effective if they are combined with the mandatory installation of the apps by law. If installing the anti-distraction apps was optional, not every driver installs them and some would still continue to use their phones. By contrast, making the drivers liable if don’t install the app means that more car drivers would install them. So, technology is the solution to distracted driving through the combination of anti-distraction apps and making their installation mandatory.