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Cariati Law Scholarship Essay

My name is Precious Adesina, and I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce program looking to do a specialization in accounting at York University. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cariati Law for creating this scholarship for students. The topic that I will be discussing in this essay is a topic many people are aware of and that is distracted driving. In this essay, I will be discussing about texting and driving and why people should not engage in it as well as ways to prevent it. I hope that with this essay, I will be considered as one of the winners of the scholarship.

To begin with, texting and driving is not something one should engage in. Do I personally do it? The answer is no. Anytime I am driving, I make sure my phone is facing down either in a cup holder or on the passenger seat. Texting and driving are extremely dangerous. By texting and driving, not only are you putting yourself at risk, but you are also putting the passengers of the vehicle you are driving at risk as well as the motorists on the road. This is much worse on the highway as you are most likely driving at a higher rate of speed. By texting and driving, this can cause the driver to lose sight of the road and accidentally drive into the back of a car ahead of you. Not only that, but you can also easily drive into another lane because you are distracted, and your eyes are not on the road. In addition, when faced with a red light, one might use that opportunity to grab their phone and text someone by putting their head down. What could happen next is that you may still be texting someone when the light changes to green and you would have not noticed because you are still texting and someone behind you may start honking on the horn so you can proceed. These are some of the risks associated with texting and driving and I am proud I do not engage in the act.

Unfortunately, I do have friends of mine who text and drive. Although I can never support their reasoning, I do know some of the reasons they do it. One response is that its cool to do so. I am very against this as I do not see anything cool with texting and driving. I see texting and driving as something super risky. The next reason why some of my friends engage in it is because they say they are put in a situation where they absolutely must. I am also against this because there should never really be an excuse to text and drive. I will be discussing preventive actions in the next paragraph, but that reason is not valid in my opinion. I have one female friend of mine who in the past has driven with me and sits in the passenger seat. There was one time where a phone call came in and I waited until I met a red light to look at it quickly to see who it was and then when I saw who it was, I immediately put my phone down. My friend questioned me as to why I did not pick up the call or text my friend back and I responded to her saying that it was not important. Texting her would make me distracted and I did not want to be distracted while driving. She laughed at first but overall respected my decision.

What can I do to prevent people from using their phones while driving? There are many things someone can do. The first recommendation I have is that if the phone call or text message is an absolute emergency and you are driving on the road or a highway, pull over to the side of the highway or go into a parking lot and respond to the call or text message there. Also have your hazard lights on. This is particularly important. By doing this, you are putting yourself, your passengers and everyone else on the road in safety. Another recommendation I think that can greatly support this issue is by spreading more awareness. Its important for people to understand the risks associated with distracted driving. From posting on Instagram to Snapchat to Twitter and other social media platforms, spreading awareness goes a long way. Also sharing stories of victims of texting and driving can really hit the soul. Some people think that texting and driving is no big deal but by sharing the consequences of engaging in it can wake someone up and have them change their opinion to them taking it more seriously. There is a lot we can do but we must first acknowledge it is a problem but by doing these actions, we can put ourselves in a better situation instead of an unfortunate one.

To conclude, texting and driving is a dangerous act an individual should not engage in. I personally do not text and drive and I am extremely proud of it. There are many risks associated with texting and driving which makes the act not worth to attempt. I do know friends of mine who do it, but I encourage them to think twice about their decisions as they could hold negative consequences unfortunately. We as individuals can take steps to prevent it. By pulling over to use our phones to spreading awareness on social media, these actions can help save lives. Once again, thank you to Cariati Law for this scholarship opportunity and I hope I can be considered as one of the winners of the scholarship.