



## **KEEP THE DRIVE HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM AWARDS STORY IDEAS**

Below is a list of story ideas to help with the brainstorming for the Keep the Drive High School Journalism Awards. **Your Awards entry should focus on texting while driving;** however, this list is a great resource for you to use throughout the year to raise awareness of driving issues in your school.

**Texting and Driving:** A lot of states are putting texting laws into effect. Has your state passed a texting law yet? If yes, what are the details of the law? If not, what's the argument against the law? How many of your friends text while they're driving? What do your friends think about the laws?

**Driving Distractions In Your School:** Poll your peers to find out the most common driving distractions they do behind the wheel. Is texting the No. 1 distraction? What tops your school's list? Then provide steps they can take to avoid these potentially deadly distractions.

**Peer Influence:** Ask around and find out what influences your peers to text behind the wheel. You may be surprised by what you learn. Solicit suggestions for how to talk to your friends about putting the cell phone down.

**What If:** Explain what happens to your future (financially and personally) if you are the cause of a crash. Find a classmate who's been in a crash caused by texting and ask about the consequences they experienced. Make sure your classmate is comfortable with using their story to talk about the dangers of texting and driving.

**Girls vs. Guys:** Get the conversation started with a comparison of driving habits. Who are better drivers, guys or girls? Do guys or girls text more while driving? Poll your school and share the results.

**Here are some other ideas to keep the conversation going at your school.**

**Eating Behind the Wheel:** Everyone's crunched for time and it's easy to grab something to eat in the car; yet, when it comes to driving distractions, eating while driving can lead to some serious crashes. What are the worst foods to eat while driving? What are the most common?

**Being the DJ:** Everyone wants to listen to good music while they're driving, but finding a song on an mp3 player or radio can be a major distraction. What are ways to enjoy music safely and hands-free?

**Brain Development:** Engage the brain and find out how it affects your decision making skills and driving. How mature is your brain as a teenager versus later in life?

**Diving Myths vs. Truths:** Example: Can you get a ticket for driving too slow?

**Driver's Licensing Laws:** What are the laws in your state? How does your state rank in terms of highway safety?

**Under the Influence:** Driving under the influence has serious consequences. What are the laws in your state?

**Road Rage:** When you're mad, it is hard to focus or think clearly. Provide tips on how to avoid road rage or how to calm down if feeling "road rage" kicking in.