Student Comments

When you are driving distracted you not only put your life at risk but everyone around you. I want to do something to stop these deaths and it has to start with myself. — Morgan

Getting into a car or bus with anyone who is not a concentrated driver is putting yourself at risk no matter how experienced the driver may be. And you should let the person know that you don’t feel safe and offer to text for them or ask them to put their phone, makeup, IPod anything that is the distraction away. It can happen to anyone. — Hanna

It surprised me how much slower and distracted you can be from talking on the phone. Also those videos were very sad and made me never want to be a distracted driver. I promise I will try my hardest to not be a distracted driver so others and I may be safe. — Alyssa

Yesterday after school my mom was texting while she was driving and I told her to put her phone away whenever the kids are in the car. And now this morning she left her phone at home when she was driving us to school. Thanks for saving lives! — Alfaro

They made me realize that my little sister is getting her license in less than ten days and I need to be a good role model to her because it hit me if anything ever happened to her I would be hurt beyond belief, and probably blame myself. — Student, Essex Junction Vermont

When the State Attorney came up and started talking about the penalties and punishments, I really didn’t see how bad it was, and so now I realize that this is a serious thing and it has made me... be more careful on the road. — Student, Essex Junction Vermont

I found out that my phone has a drive mode also and when I start to drive I try to remember to put it in the drive mode. With out me knowing my dad called me and he got an automatic message saying that I cant talk because I was driving. He and my mom were really proud. — Cherry Hill, NJ Student

I know more now that I did before and have more information to use in an argument with my dad trying to get him to stop texting while driving. — Pennsbury, PA Student

Distracted driving is very dangerous and very selfish. When you drive distracted, you really are not thinking about anyone but yourself when you do it. — Baltimore, MD Student

School, Community and Business Comments

The day after the presentation, I was driving and thought of someone I needed to call, started to reach for my phone, and then remembered Bryan’s presentation. I put my phone away, with a mental message to make that call when I stopped. — Don Wheeler, President, Albemarle County Rotary Club, VA.

So many of our students were able to identify with the difficulty the girl on stage was having trying to convince her parent to be safe. Your compassionate and thoughtful presentation has changed behaviors. — Joel Dankoff, Student Council Advisor Friends’ Central School, PA

Thank you so much for the outstanding presentation you gave to the Emerson students and teachers. They did not stop talking about it! — Ava Annese, Emerson, NJ
Thank you for your time and dedication to Abington Senior High School. Your presentation was excellent and well received by our students. We look forward to working with you in the future. —Jeffrey S. Fecher, Ed.D. Principal, Abington Senior High School

Our students [were] engaged, interested and Impacted... Although Joel’s program is primarily on distracted driving, there is a larger message that is communicated—that driving requires full attention... It’s an important message that can’t be reiterated enough to new teen drivers. —Street Safe Driving Academy

I found the role play exercise during his presentation to be an especially effective ways to reach young people because they help young people to consider practical responses when they are in a situation in which they feel unsafe. The role play scenarios empower young people by providing them with the tools to advocate for themselves when they are put in an unsafe situation such as driving with an individual who is distracted. —Mark Fifer, The Haverford School, Haverford, PA

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Know that I have personally been affected and made decisions about the way I drive due to the presentation. —Angela Weigner, BVSD Lifelong Learning Manager, Boulder, CO

Prevention is ultimately the primary “cure” for the devastating injuries we see. Joel’s message has the potential to prevent many of the pediatric spinal cord injuries that happen in this country; his message needs to be delivered and acted upon. —Occupational Therapist, Shriner’s Hospital, Philadelphia

Speaker Comments

WOW! What a refreshing experience! Today is one of those days where you feel good knowing that you might just have saved a life. The kids were really excited and participation was excellent. —George Boath, Esq. Stratford CT

Several students vividly described situations when they were fearful for their own safety while riding with their parents! —Ed Manzke, Esq. Naperville, IL

I presented to 450 sophomores... It was a grand success and I had a wonderful time... the President and development director already asked me back next year. The energy and feedback were incredible and powerful. —Mark Kitrick, Esq Cincinnati, OH.

Young people understand, deeply, that cell phone use while driving needs to be “de-normalized” and even stigmatized. Young people want to be supported and encouraged in using their voices to “speak up” to others, including their parents, when they feel unsafe about distracted driving. —Scott Blumenshine, Esq Chicago, IL

I am a habitual car texter and emailer while driving. Tonight changed that. For the first time ever I CHOSE to place my phone in the trunk when I got in the car. And you know what? I didn’t miss it at all. And my daughter for the first time did not have to beg me to put it away either. —CR, Cleveland