Spring 2018 Helena District Writing Assessment, 9-12

“Distracted Driving” Prompt

Sample Score Point 4

It wasn’t until the 1980’s that Montana followed suit in the regulation of speeding zones. Being a very agriculturally targeted area, citizens need transportation to get from point A to point B. Due to this matter alone, the county has taken the responsibility of issuing citations for matters like driving under the influence and driving with an expired license. These two offenses alone can cost up to $1,200 but driving distracted is often punishable by a simple warning. Yet, due to the technological advancements that have taken place in the last decade alone should fortell the importance of this new trend of tragedy.

By the age of five most children have had experience with smart phones and by the age of eight these children own said phones. Due to this, teachers are taught how to educate children on their safety and privacy on the web. At thirteen, the children are now teenagers who use technology daily, and have this tech integrated into their schooling. In Montana, at age 15 teens are licensed and on the road driving. The youth of this generation has been taught how to use these devices but is the generation that has the most distracted driving deaths. Why? The correlation between this information is the simple matter of change. With these new advancements, laws and regulations need to change in order to limit preventable deaths.

Some may say that it would simply be impossible to tell whether or not a driver is distracted, however, this could not be farther from the truth. How often have you driven by someone whose eyes are staring mindlessly at their laps? One too many. Just like alcohol and drug tests, systems can be instituted to help alleviate doubt from arresting officers. Cell tower records could be used to determine use of a phone during the time of the incident and the trajectory of the cars can be used to determine if speeds were past limit as well as hesitation/swerve marks.

To conclude, distracted driving should be a punishable offence like that of a DUI. Not only will this prevent further crimes, but it will also rightfully punish those who need to have driving privelages revoked. By putting a fine on distracted driving it will make it a more serious crime and will be treated like so.

Annotation: The essay’s introduction considers some unique aspects of driving in Montana, including the addition of speeding fines in the 1980’s and the fact that driving distracted often results in a mere warning. Organization could be more focused; the thesis occurs towards the end of the second paragraph, yet ideas are clearly grouped. The analysis considers multiple perspectives. While refuting the idea that fines for distracted driving could not be applied due to the difficulty of proving the driver had been engaged in cell phone activity, the suggestion is made that cell towers and driving speed could be consulted. Word choice is adequate and in general precise; errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics do not impede understanding.