Spring 2018 Helena District Writing Assessment – 9, 10, and 12

“Distracted Driving” Prompt

Sample Score Point 6

As technology advances, society runs into a plethora of problems. Everyone plugs in headphones and opens the latest app to escape from reality. Not only do people do this while they are walking, but also driving. These people that are checked out of the world are like animals that have been taken over by parasites’. They are brainwashed to no longer care about their surroundings and they begin to cause accidents. Cell phones are the latest parasite of our community and they need to be controlled. When it comes to driving, people are dying every day because of cell phone use while driving. However, this can be controlled, because of Washington’s DUIE law with harsh punishments to distracted drivers.

Some people bring up the argument that this would be almost impossible to enforce. It can be hard to tell whether or not someone was on their phone and driving externally, but inside their phone there are multiple ways to tell if someone was on it while driving. Almost all apps you open keep track of the last time you were actively logged on. Some apps even tell other users the last time you were active. Other apps like text messanger apps and snapchat tell people the exact time a message was sent. These time tracking tools within the apps can be used by law enforcement if a driver is ever acused of being on an electronic device while driving. Even though some people may say it is an invasion of privacy, people acused of driving under the influence are blood tested after wrecks. If we can blood test them without an invasion of privacy, law enforcement should have access to electronic devices to uncover whether or not a wreck was caused because of someone’s cell phone.

Drunk driving and electronic use while driving should be treated at the same level of the law. Drunk drivers are punished because drugs alter someone’s state of mind disabling them to pay full attention to the road. While they are not completely the same, both drinking and driving and cell phone use while driving distract the driver and slow down the drivers reflexes. Therefore causing car wrecks that can sometimes be fatal.

Bigger fines need to be implemented also because small fines do not deter many people. For example, many people speed while driving, especially in Montana because speeding tickets are cheap and rarely enforced. This leads to people thinking that they can get away with speeding. If law enforcement want to control the epidemic of distracted driving, heavy fines and enforcement of those fines needs to be done. This will deter people from checking snapchat while they are driving because one snapchat is not worth a $500 fine. However some people may think their snapchat is worth a $20 fine if they have that kind of money.

Overall electronic use while driving needs to be controlled. The United States Highway system is detereorating because of lack of funding so people need to be focused on their surroundings. Electronic use while driving hinders peoples focus and causes wrecks. However, these wrecks can be controlled with just a few extra steps.

Annotation: This essay tackles the prompt well by supporting the stated claim with specific examples and effectively refuting counter arguments. The essay is organized effectively, and language use is generally precise. While there are some errors in grammar and usage, they do not distract from the meaning of the essay.