Spring 2018 Helena District Writing Assessment, 9-12

“Distracted Driving” Prompt

Sample Score Point 5

As technology becomes more abundant and continues to inundate peoples’ everyday lives, a plethora of new issues pertaining to this technology have developed. One major, and potentially life-threatening, risk is the use of technology while driving. Distracted driving, whether it comes from an electronic gadget or another source like food or drinks, is becoming an increasingly central problem to society. In order to combat this problem, penalties should be developed and enacted against distracted driving.

With high numbers of deaths on the roads every day, it is very apparent that action must be taken against distracted driving. In the same way that someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol has impaired driving abilities and hence endangers the public can be punished by law, people who are distracted while driving and also a threat to others should be able to face similar punishments. Multitasking while driving can cause deaths, if a driver fails to see a pedestrian or another car due to their distracted state. Enforcing laws against distracted driving could save many lives, as people would likely refrain from driving distracted if they knew strong consequences would ensue. It would benefit the governments in states to follow Washington’s example and pass laws against distracted driving, as this would likely save lives, and prevent many accidents with severity ranging from slight inconveniences to fatal tragedies. Overall, it is very important that further laws against distracted driving are passed.

Other perspectives state that it is not worth attempting to pass distracted driving laws, as they will not be highly influential. Some people feel that the consequences from an accident caused by distracted driving would be enough to prevent it in the future, however these accidents may prove to be fatal, and the deaths could have been prevented had there been more strict distracted driving laws in place. It is also argued that it can be difficult to prove distracted driving, and while this would create a problem, if laws were passed, law enforcement groups would likely spend more time addressing this problem and developing techniques to prove if a person was distracted or not. Despite the arguments against distracted driving laws, there are far more benefits than problems so they should be considered nationwide.

Overall, distracted driving has become a large problem that poses a threat to the general public, and hence steps against it should be taken – passing laws has huge advantages, like saving lives and supporting public safety, and few problems. It is very important that states develop and enforce laws against distracted driving.

Annotation: The writer takes a clear stand in the introductory paragraph, set up with a strong lead with effective word choice (“abundant,” “inundate,” “plethora”). A strong command of language is demonstrated, with a few awkward statements. Good examples are used to support the claim and to refute the two other perspectives offered with the prompt. While there are some errors in mechanics, they generally are not distracting.