

# One decision could end a life

Texting while driving is a dangerous choice many are still making.

By: Mia Laube @mia\_laube21

It only takes an instant. A little mistake could cause a dent. One small, meaningless distraction could turn into an injury. A split second could mean the end of a life. This is the reality we face when we choose to text and drive.

According to [textinganddriving-safety.com](http://textinganddriving-safety.com), text messaging makes a crash up to twenty-three times more likely. That's a ridiculous amount for such a short time- a minimum of five seconds of one's attention could produce an effect thousands of times longer.

It's not smart in the slightest. With the dependency on technology our generation and even adults now face, it's difficult to put down the little device that connects us to everything. People scroll through social media, make calls and even just check texts, which all increase danger when they need to be focusing entirely on driving, a task requiring full alertness.

It can be hard to know the magnitude of the problem. Phil LeBeau from CNBC reported on a surprising study about texting and driving that said it's worse than drinking and driving. That sounds hard to believe- it's just a few

words on a screen, one might say. In this experiment, it took a legally drunk person four whole extra feet to brake. Still, the person texting and driving added seventy extra feet to a stop that should only take a little over half a second. This is 2016. Numbers don't lie.

If cold, hard facts aren't enough persuasion, think of it this way. Most people have at least one person they are close to, whether it be a father, friend, or little sister. What if one day, the doorbell rang and on the other side was an officer who said that person was gone forever? Would it be easy to forgive someone who ended the life of a little boy so they could text one of their buddies back? Stop thinking it won't happen to you.

The person behind the wheel may never have seen the face of the person whose life they ended. But that face will never leave their mind again. The sad thing is, it's more preventable than almost any other kind of accident.

The effect may be lasting, but it's important to understand that it was a small mistake to begin with. When the phone screen flashes it might be tempting to read the email the history teacher sent out, respond to the group chat that's been going all afternoon, or check out the notification that just

popped up from Twitter. Those reasons will never be enough when one is standing outside their car, hands on their head, wishing they could take it back as an officer questions them and an ambulance rushes away.

It takes one glance up from the phone screen to see the world around is suffering. We aren't invincible. In fact, everything that makes us unique from our favorite songs to our daily interactions can be taken away rather fast.

Before you text and drive, ask yourself- is it really worth it? The answer is no. One by one, we can change

## T3XTING and DRIVING



By the numbers

23

At least 23% of crashes involved cell phones in 2011.

1.3

That amounts to 1.3 million crashes.

5

A minimum of 5 seconds is taken away from the road (at 55 mph that's a football field without looking up).

34

34% say they have texted while driving.

23

Text messaging makes a crash up to 23 times more likely.

According to [textinganddriving-safety.com](http://textinganddriving-safety.com)

this trend, but nothing will ever be better if each person doesn't become accountable.

It can wait ten minutes. Make the decision to put the phone away. Make the decision to not end a life.

## GPA's need some gains

By: Amy Noble @amy\_noble12

For some, GPA is everything, but for others it's more about getting into clubs and activities in the school and not focusing on their GPA. Some students make sure to keep their grades high and keep their GPA at a 4.0 or higher. Other students like to get involved in as many clubs and programs as possible, leaving less time for doing school work. Some students don't really do either; they just don't really care for school.

The best way to go through high school is to get into as many clubs, programs, and sports as possible and focus on a good GPA too. Colleges will look at things like grades and GPA and the involvement in the school. Trying to do both isn't always easy because sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done, but it is definitely possible. Keeping a detailed schedule and having good time management skills makes doing both a lot easier.

### Is a good GPA important?



"It's important to get into college and to have a successful future."  
-Sarah McGuire, sophomore



"It's a good thing, it makes you seem like a good student, and a high cumulative will get you into college."  
-Alec Arcand, senior



"It's important for college or work force because they look at it to see if you're a good student or worker."  
-Skye Reece, junior



"Colleges will look at you more and you will have a better chance at getting into better schools."  
-Sydney Nielsen, sophomore

People that only care about the amount of things they are involved in sometimes start to get behind in their classes because they spend too much time on their activities. If they can't keep grades up in all their classes, then they won't be able to participate in those activities because of code of conduct or their parents may decide it's time to focus more on school work than extracurriculars.

There are some people that don't care about their involvement or the grades they receive in school. Those kind of people don't get anything out of their high school experience so if they do choose to go to college it will be much harder to get accepted in the schools of their choice. If they do get accepted, there is a good chance they won't really know what they want to do with their life.

Trying new things and activities in high school can really help someone find what they do in the future, but learning in school is just as important. Get involved, but don't get too involved so that there is still time to get school work done.

## Costs of construction in town

By: Madigan Crowley @crowleymadigan

Almost everyone knows the feeling of driving down the road when, all of a sudden, the cars are moving ten feet every five minutes. There are cones up ahead directing everyone in their path to turn, also making everyone late to wherever they are going.

Road construction: it's anyone who's trying to get somewhere on time's worst nightmare. Towns and cities across the country have construction going on at all times. Some even take so long they have to shut down the roads during the winter months.

In Marion there has been construction on multiple roads at different times. They have added a few roundabouts and fixed crumbling roads, but the process ends up taking so long people don't care as much about the roads becoming better.

Roads do need to be fixed or else no one would be able to get anywhere, but they need to be planned better. All construction should be finished before the snow starts to fall so they don't have to close the whole road all

winter.

Sometimes it's more than it's worth to have all the re-routing and confusion that comes with it.

If construction companies made a few adjustments, like giving more time to complete the project, they would have better outcomes in the community and people would be more willing to work around these projects.



Scan here to easily learn how to use a roundabout like the ones in Marion.

## NETWORK COMPUTER Solutions

Hardware Sales & Service

Server & Workstation - Upgrades & Installation

Printer & Copier Repair & Supplies

Free Quotes

Locally owned by Patty Wise, Phil Hedtke & Kevin Halder.



319-247-7223

[www.ncsei.com](http://www.ncsei.com)