

Model A

argumentative, expository, narrative

Level of Blending: The writing smoothly and effectively blends at least two genres (argumentative, expository, and/or narrative); blending is well thought out and purposeful.

Prompt: Your city council is debating whether to enact a strict “no texting while driving” law in your city and has scheduled an open meeting during which citizens may share their thoughts on the proposed law. Using a blend of two or three writing genres (choose from expository, argumentative, narrative), write the text you would read to the council at the open meeting to present your thoughts on the proposed law. Integrate material from the two sources available to you with your own thoughts and/or experiences.

For the purpose of this example, the student response below was evaluated only on blending.

A young girl rides, bumping and chatting giddily in the passenger seat of a car, a special treat for her birthday. “You can see everything when you sit up her,” she giggles. She is riding with her grandmother to get dinner and celebrate, but those plans are cut short with a crash. Her bubbly words are interrupted by a shout to hold on and the world spins and twists around her. The car scrapes across the road and is propped up by the curb. Shakily the passengers realize they have made it and have to kick open a door to get out. The back seat, a place this girl would have been sitting were it not a special day, was completely crushed. This moment was the scariest one of this girl’s life—of my life. The culprit? A teen texting her boyfriend. Texting and driving is a serious problem in today’s society, and the government must take actions to protect people both from themselves and from others. By examining changing society, simple statistics, and how these translate into real life, one can see that a law must be put in place to prevent texting and driving.

Narrative

Characterization and plot

Argumentative

Thesis (taking side on issue)

To understand why laws must be put in place to prevent texting and driving, one must first understand how heavily technology is integrated into society. Not owning a smartphone of some kind today is much more of an outlier than not owning one. The article Facts and statistics from Distraction.gov states that from 2011 to 2014 the number of drivers that own cellphone went from fifty-two percent to eighty percent. This

Expository

Reasoning as to why law is necessary

Argumentative

Evidence

number is still growing; technology is not just a luxury anymore. Schools give out iPads so students can do their work, workplaces require presentations and the ability to use technology, ads come through the mail instead of letters. With all of the new uses of technology, cell phones and tablets are a necessity in the current world, so they are constantly on their person, adding temptation to never be bored even when driving.

A result of constant entertainment at one's fingertips is crashes, and one must see that technology use while driving statistically harms probabilities of crashing before deciding on this law. The article 4 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Text and Drive states, "Text messaging makes a crash up to 23X (times) more likely," as well as the fact that if one is traveling fifty-five miles per hour and looks down at his or her phone or device for five seconds one will drive the equivalent of a football field without having seen the road. The dangers exist all too prominently, and somehow one's text is more important than one's life. It may seem obvious that using a device while driving is an idiotic action, yet not everyone recognizes this or, if they do, they do not pay attention to what they once thought. The same article says, "77% of young adults are very or somewhat confident that they can safely text while driving." Even though common sense tells one not to text and drive when faced with facts, the intrigue of a conversation seems to outweigh logic.

In summation by examining changing society and simple statistics one can see that a law must be put in place to prevent texting and driving. To stop the accidents and unnecessary death from sending an emoji, the city government must pass this law. The most at danger are children and young adults, the next generation. That young girl celebrating her birthday made it but she will not think of cars the same way ever again. People are ignorant and disregard logic, so the government needs to listen in order to save our society from the dangers of texting and driving.

Expository

Makes above evidence relevant to audience by providing variety of examples

Expository

Why problematic

Argumentative

Evidence

Expository

Why problematic

Argumentative

Evidence

Expository

Why problematic

Argumentative

Revisits thesis

Narrative

Reference to opening narrative

Argumentative

Closing point

Blending is smooth and effective: Writer weaves different genres throughout piece of writing; individual paragraphs are not dominated by a single genre.

Blending is well thought out and purposeful: Writer uses narrative and exposition to illustrate and clarify evidence from sources as well as to make the evidence relevant to audience.