

## A Proposal for a Community Organization    L O W   L E V E L   1

**A**

### Proposal

I am the spokesperson for a new organization, Road Sense, that wants to ban the use of cell phones while driving. This is a serious issue that must be addressed and dealt with as soon as possible. Our primary goal is to inform society of the dangers of being a distracted driver. We would like to get the whole community involved. Therefore there will be more of an impact when we want to pass a law. Thus, by having a law passed we want to eliminate injuries and deaths due to drivers whom have been distracted by having a conversation on a cell phone. Distracted drivers cause approximately six million crashes each year and people are four times likely to crash when using a cell phone. Almost two dozen countries around the world have already regulated the use of cell phones behind the wheel. This is a law that we should adopt here in Canada to save the lives of our citizens. Although we want to reach everybody in society, it is most important that we reach teenager because they are less experienced and it is easier for them to get into accidents even without distractions.

### ANTHROPOLOGICAL VIEW

It has been our custom to try to be in touch with each other and there are lots of inventions to do that. It is the norm in our society use cell phones. Either for personal use, business, or just for emergencies. People feel the need to use cell phones everywhere. For example, a member of our organization has witnessed someone receiving a phone call during Sunday mass. The use of cell phones has increased drastically over the last decade. This is the newest invention. About eighty-five percent of people that use cell phones use it while driving. Having cell phones regulated while driving has to do with the well being of human kind. Fewer people would die either from causing the accident or being the victim of the accident. Also, drivers will be less irresponsible and there will be more full attention on driving.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL VIEW

A lot of people in our society have a dependency on using cellular phones. People bring it with them everywhere, and use it anywhere. Many people do use it as emergency

**B**

or as safety devices. This helps them feel secure when they are alone. Although cell phones may be used safely in certain situations, not all people do so. From the thousands of people, who do use their cell phones in the car, there are those unlucky ones that do end up hitting another car or someone. The psychological implications that go along with the trauma are very hard to deal with. For instance, a mother was taking her very young daughter for a walk on her second birthday. Meanwhile a sixteen-year-old girl drove around the corner, not noticing the mother and daughter because she was on her cell phone. This girl hit both of them. The little girl was killed instantly and the mother was sent to intensive care. She did survive but she will never see her daughter again. Because of this unfortunate situation, the girl has to live with this on her conscience for the rest of her life. The hours of therapy she must go through will never completely remove her guilt.

### SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW

It is very much a social issue to have a cell phone. It keeps us in touch with our family and friends, and it is also used as a security. But cell phones do take up a lot of our concentration. If we were to observe the way people drive when they are on a cell phone we would notice several changes in the way they drove. For example, they would weave between lanes, make illegal or unsafe lane changes, they would drive through red lights, fail to stop at stop signs, and either speed or drive too slow. All of these situations are a cause of being distracted. By having a law passed to regulate cell phones while driving it will eliminate all of these accident-causing situations.

On behalf of Road Sense, I would like to thank you for your time and co-operation. Through your help and support we wish to make our organization known. We would like to regulate the use of cell phones while driving and most importantly keep our citizens safe. Hopefully within the next few years, as this organization becomes known, there will be less injuries, deaths, and accidents due to distracted drivers, and more concentration on the road.

## C

**Bibliography**

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**Teacher's Notes****Knowledge/Understanding**

- The student demonstrates a very limited understanding of the problem or need of a target group. Although the student identifies a problem (i.e., the connection between cell phone use and road accidents), it is not clear whether the statistics provided on the number of crashes each year refer specifically to cell phone users or to distracted drivers in general. Moreover, the target group is not clearly identified (e.g., “Although we want to reach everybody in society, it is most important that we reach teenager. . .”), and if indeed it is teenagers who are targeted, their particular needs are not described or addressed.
- The student’s description of the organization is very limited. It does not clearly describe the purpose or functions of the organization other than that it will “inform society of the dangers of being a distracted driver” and wants “to pass a law”. Neither of these goals relates specifically to a target group.

**Thinking/Inquiry**

- The student’s assessment of the social forces contributing to the problem is limited. Although the student links the forces identified with the appropriate discipline (e.g., the psychological “dependency on using cellular phones”), they are not always clearly differentiated – for example, the sociological view merely combines aspects from the other two disciplines. In addition, the student’s observations mostly concern the effects of cell phone use while driving and are not specifically related to how the forces identified have contributed to the development of this problem.

**Communication**

- The student justifies the formation of the proposed organization with very limited effectiveness. The student does not provide enough information to persuade the reader that the new organization has a clear idea as to how it would achieve its goals. The student also does not convincingly show that

**LOW LEVEL 1**

regulating cell phone use by drivers would reduce the number of accidents – for example, no mention is made of the effects of such regulation in other countries.

- The student makes limited use of social science terminology. The student uses terms such as “norm”, “dependency”, and “psychological implications” correctly; however, little social science terminology is incorporated into the proposal.

**Application**

- The student makes predictions about the impact of the organization that are of limited appropriateness. The student predicts that “as this organization becomes known, there will be less injuries, deaths, and accidents due to distracted drivers”; however, there is little in the proposal to substantiate this claim.

**Comments**

This work is representative of a low level-1 performance. The student demonstrates a limited degree of achievement of the expectations in the Thinking/ Inquiry and Application categories of knowledge and skills. The student also demonstrates a limited degree of achievement with respect to one criterion in the Communication category. However, in the Knowledge/Understanding category and in the other criterion in the Communication category, the student demonstrates only a very limited degree of achievement.

The result is a proposal that lacks a clear focus.

**Next Steps**

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- review the task requirements in order to better understand the nature of the task;
- clearly identify the problem or need of a target group and back it up with evidence;
- show convincingly that the proposed organization has a clear idea of how to address the problem or need of the target group;
- clearly identify the social forces that contribute to the specific problem or need and connect them to the appropriate social science perspective;
- use social science terminology accurately and consistently;
- avoid the use of irrelevant information.