

Brady Roberts

Net RMA  
Brady Roberts

Being able to drive is definitely a privilege that most teenagers rank very high on their lists of things to do once they turn 15. I know I couldn't wait to go to the drivers license office on my birthday to get my permit and then the following year to take my driving test to get my license. The freedom to be able to drive myself to school, drive myself to practices, drive to friends houses, etc. is a great feeling.

My school offered drivers education classes before school, but my parents and I decided to do the Parent Taught Drivers Education course. I do believe that everyone should have to take a drivers education course before being allowed to get behind the wheel of a car. When you decide to drive, you not only have your life in your hands, but everyone driving around you. If you don't know the traffic laws and have not practiced with an experienced driver, then how do you know you will make the right decision? I also think the more you drive with someone, the more confident you get that you will make the right decision. You only do this with a lot of practice, making mistakes, and hopefully learning from them.

In requiring a driver's ed course, you also have to ensure that it is meaningful and done the right way. If you're only going through the motions and not learning anything, then what's the point. This means everyone involved needs to take it seriously and make sure that students are doing what they need to be doing to be safe drivers. My parents did not let me slide on any part of the written or driving parts of the course. I had to do all the required hours before they would take me to get my permit and license. Honestly, I think they made it harder on me than if I had just done it at school, but looking back, I'd do it all over again.

Overall, I do agree with keeping a drivers education course as a requirement to get your license. It does create a safer driver and I would say that just because your "book smart" and can pass the written part of the test, that maintaining the driving portion of the test with a certified instructor is 100% necessary so that we are making sure that they are placing safe drivers on the roads. I am currently pursuing my Commercial Drivers License (CDL) that I will need for my career as an Electrical Lineworker and I am going through a lot of the same studying that I did preparing for my Class C license. I am studying now to take the written portion for my permit and taking a driving class to help prepare myself better for this much larger vehicle. It's a lot of responsibility and I want to make sure I'm confident in what I'm doing. In the end, I feel like doing drivers ed and logging all those hours driving has helped make me a safer, more aware driver on the roads and it will continue to benefit me in the future.