

The First Domino: A Short Essay on Safe Driving

As I have gotten older, I have learned the difference between two common words: invested and passionate. I am astounded as to how many individuals relate the two words together but are not able to see how they are different. As I reflect back on how I learned the difference between the two words, it is evident that driving safely has played a vital role in my findings.

Through my two years of driving, I have realized that driving safely is more important than it sounds. Making sure I am not driving over the speed limit, continuously checking my rearview and side mirrors, and assuring myself that I am using my turn signals are just three instances that proved to me what the term invested meant. Invested is an action, and I feel as if many people do not see others do the things it takes to be invested. However, others see the outcomes of the investment. Furthermore, in my mind, safe driving has passion related to it. Passion, after all, is best described as being an internal feeling and drive that powers a person to do something. For me, getting from point 'A' to point 'B' safely is my passion. With that in mind, I have made it a priority to advocate for safe driving. After brainstorming, I was able to come up with a formula on how to spread the word about distracted driving.

Notably, almost every kid has been filled with the immense joy that comes after watching dominoes fall in lines and zig-zag patterns; however, after the kid grows up, the domino effect symbolizes much more than something as an aid to replace boredom. The domino effect, in today's society, reflects our actions. Our world today needs to educate individuals on safe driving more than ever, and with the combination of the domino effect as well as staying invested and passionate, the solution may be right under our noses.

To start, I can be the first domino in line. For instance, considering I am an active leader within my school, I want to be the first domino that falls and educates others on the dangers of distracted driving. From one simple action, the possibilities are endless. I like to envision myself running alongside the falling dominoes when I was a child, wondering as to how one domino made all of the other ones fall. Now that I am older, I think of how one simple action, such as educating others on simple ways to drive safely, can impact one person after another, causing the domino effect.

As Brené Brown said, “A leader is someone who holds themselves accountable for finding potential in people and processes.” Safe driving is that process, and I am that leader. The future very easily could be in my hands, so it is my job to set our world up for success.