

Case Study: Thoughts About Drinking and Driving

Content Standards

Students will...

- 2) Examine the impact of risk taking behaviors.

Process Standards

Students will...

- 1) Organize facts according to their descriptions.
- 2) Present information through various techniques.
- 3) Apply decision making skills to various situations.

Task: Case Study

On the last day of school in June, the teachers of Bright High School hosted a party for all the twelfth-grade graduates. Although the teachers did not supply alcohol to this group of underage drinkers, many of the students sneaked alcohol into the party. One such student was Anna Kofski, who had five drinks.

Anna parents gave her the car that day so that she can drive some of her friends' home from the party. Anna's parents had often told her never to drink and drive or to get into a car with a driver who had been drinking. They told her to call anytime she needed a ride in such a situation.

Before leaving the party, Anna thought about calling her parents but decided against it because both her parents were working at the time and she did not want to be a nuisance. So Anna, despite the refusal of one of her friends to get into the car, drove home with two passengers.

En route, she turned onto a street and drove on the wrong side of the road, causing the driver of a school bus to lose control of the bus while trying to avoid Anna's car. The bus flew down an embankment and the accident resulted in the death of all 25 passengers, who were young middle-school students, and the bus driver. Anna and her two passengers survived with no injuries.

- 1) You are a lawyer for a high profile firm. After carefully going over the case at hand explain how would you defend Anna? What arguments would you use to prevent her from being given a prison sentence or even the death penalty?

- 2) Again, being a lawyer for a high profile firm and going over the case carefully, Explain how you would argue the case if you were the lawyer for the families of the victims. What punishment do you think Anna deserves? What arguments would you use to try to have her convicted?

As you answer these two questions you will provide the following:

- 1) A compare/contrast chart showing the arguments for the defense and prosecution. This will help you to write your paper.
- 2) A 1-2 page paper answering the questions of being a lawyer on each side of the case (questions up above). Make sure arguments for both sides are clearly stated and supported.
- 3) Answer the following reflection questions in a half page response: How would you feel as a parent of one of the victims? What can a parent do to be an advocate for not drinking and driving?

Criteria

- Having a compare/contrast chart
- Paper is 1-2 pages in length
- Arguments for both sides are clearly stated and supported
- Reflection questions are answered thoughtfully in a paragraph
- No spelling or grammatical errors