

Lesson Plan Ideas

“*Driving Safely with Vulnerable Road Users in Mind*” and “*Looking Twice is Not Enough*” have been written specifically for student use during driver education courses. This document contains a few ideas for how driver educators might use this material and a True and False quiz for students.

“**Driving Safely with Vulnerable Road Users in Mind**” has four major sections (1) a general description of vulnerable road users and then a description of the three types of road users most often included in the general category (2) pedestrians (3) bicyclists and (4) motorcyclists.

Driver educators often use the “read and report” technique for learning the material in “*Driving Safely with Vulnerable Road Users in Mind.*” Four or more students can be assigned to read one of the four sections and then report key points to the total group. Expect students to need 3-5 minutes to carefully read each section. If there are 2 or more students assigned to read each section, allow time for the “expert” group to discuss what they think are the most important points and choose someone to represent their group to report.

5 minutes – individual reading

3 minutes – expert group discussion

5 minutes – expert group reporting x 4 sections = 20 minutes

Following the reports from the four expert groups, several options are available

- A. Full group discussion facilitated by the instructor
- B. Regroup students into three groups and assign each group to read and discuss one of the “How you can help” sections. Assign groups to “pick one (or two or three) of the points from the section you think is the most important to remember and why and prepare to report.” Allow time for reading, small group discussion and reporting to the full group.
- C. Have students complete the T & F quiz provided – either individually or in small groups (recommended). This is a “learning activity” not a “testing activity.”

“**Looking Twice is Not Enough**” is an excellent follow-up once new drivers have reviewed the general information regarding vulnerable road users outlined in “*Driving Safely with Vulnerable Road Users in Mind.*” “Watch for Motorcycles, Look Twice, Save a Life” is the traditional reminder motorcyclist safety advocates provide to car drivers during the month of May. “Look twice, save a life” is an easy to remember rhyming phrase which it tells drivers the end goal – save a life. However, to make that a reality, car drivers need to know more and do more. This brief article describes the “how” of a search system designed to address the problems the research indicates are components of “Looked But Failed to See” crashes.

Young drivers involved in focus group discussion regarding driving safely around motorcycles report they often fail to see motorcyclist and report they do not have any specific system for searching (looking) for motorcyclists. SMARTER recommends young drivers are taught the search system outlined in “*Looking Twice is Not Enough.*”

Driving Safely with Vulnerable Road Users in Mind

True or False

- 1_____ If struck by a car or truck, vulnerable road users are at high risk for injury or death.
- 2_____ Most vulnerable road user collisions happen on rural roadways.
- 3_____ Collisions with all vulnerable road users usually happen at night.
- 4_____ Pedestrians also include people who are jogging or skateboarding as well as just walking.
- 5_____ Pedestrian movements are very predictable.
- 6_____ Pedestrains always follow the rules.
- 7_____ Children often misjudge the speed and intentions of drivers.
- 8_____ Nearly half of all pedestrians killed are children.
- 9_____ There is very little variation in bicyclists' behavior in traffic.
- 10_____ In most states bicyclists are required to follow the rules of the road.
- 11_____ Because of years of experience, older bicyclists are much better at steering than other age groups.
- 12_____ Unlike pedestrians and bicyclists, the motorcycle offers significant protection for motorcycle riders.
- 13_____ Drivers often fail to perceive (see) motorcyclists in the traffic mix.
- 14_____ A motorcycle and rider are easily seen around car door/window pillars.
- 15_____ It is easy to judge the speed of an approaching motorcycle and rider.
- 16_____ A common scenario where a car driver violates the right-of-way of a motorcyclist is when the car driver is waiting to turn left and the motorcyclist is approaching from almost straight ahead.
- 17_____ If a motorcyclist slows in any way, the brake light on the motorcycle will activate.
- 18_____ It is illegal for a motorcyclist to adjust their position within a single lane.
- 19_____ It is very important for drivers to search specifically for vulnerable road users.