

Dear Educator,

Road safety isn't just driver safety. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and e-scooter riders all use the road, too. And they all need to learn how to share the road safely.

This year, the National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF) is focusing its annual **Drive2Life PSA Contest** on this too-often overlooked element of road safety. They've teamed up with Young Minds Inspired to create a program that provides students with important facts about road sharing and the road safety practices every pedestrian, bicyclist, and e-scooter rider should know, and that will support language arts, health, media, and communication lessons.

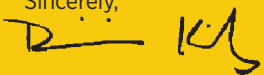
The program concludes with an activity that challenges students to use what they have learned to write a script not more than two pages for a 30-second video on safe road sharing to enter in the **2022 Drive2Life PSA Contest**. All students ages 13 to 19 in grades 6–12 can enter for the chance to win one of these great prizes:

- **Grand Prize:** One student Grand Prize winner will receive \$2,000 and the chance to produce his/her PSA script with an Emmy-award winning producer. Plus, the winner and his/her PSA will be featured on *Teen Kids News*.
- **Runner-up Prizes:** Four student runners-up (two from grades 6–8 and two from grades 9–12) will receive \$500 each and will have their name, school, and PSA title posted on the NRSF website.
- **Teacher Prizes:** The teacher of each student winner will receive a \$100 Visa gift card!

Contest deadline is March 21, 2022. Visit ymicclassroom.com/drive2life for complete contest details, entry forms, and the official rules.

We hope you will share this program with other teachers in your school. And please let us know your opinion of these learning materials by visiting ymicclassroom.com/feedback-drive2life. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



For questions, contact us toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by e-mail at feedback@ymicclassroom.com

TARGET AUDIENCE

Students ages 13 to 19 in grades 6 to 12

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Available at ymicclassroom.com/drive2life:

- This two-page teacher's guide
- A reproducible student activity sheet
- A reproducible family letter for parents/caregivers
- **Drive2Life PSA Contest** Overview, Entry Form, and Official Rules
- PSA lesson and student handouts
- Standards alignment chart
- Program feedback form

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness about safe road-sharing practices for pedestrians, bicyclists, and e-scooter riders, as well as drivers
- Support language, communication, and creative skills with the **2022 Drive2Life PSA Contest**

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Download, photocopy, and distribute the reproducible activity sheet to all students. Prepare the materials for the activity and preview any related videos in advance. Distribute the family letter to help parents and guardians continue the conversation at home.

USING THE ACTIVITY SHEET ROAD-SHARING SAFETY: MYTHS VS. FACTS

Start by reminding students that bicycling and walking are healthy, climate-friendly ways to travel, but bicyclists and pedestrians are always at risk when sharing the road with motorized vehicles. According to estimates from the Governors Highway Safety Association, in 2019, 6,721 pedestrians and 846 bicyclists were killed on U.S. roadways, and thousands more suffered injuries from crashes and falls, including cuts and scrapes, broken bones, and head trauma.

Explain that staying safe on the road is a shared responsibility amongst drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and e-scooter riders — and that prevention is the key to protecting yourself and others.



Tell students that in this activity, they will test their knowledge and learn about road sharing and how to stay safe on the road.

Part 1: Distribute the activity sheet and have students assess each pair of statements to determine which are facts.

Review the answers as a class and share the messages below to dispel any misconceptions.

Answers:

- 1. Fact = A.** Explain: While it's important to be safe year-round, as the days get shorter the risks for bicyclists and walkers go up. The darker it is, the harder it is for drivers to see and avoid others. It's also harder to spot hazards that may cause you to fall, like potholes, speed bumps, grates, and slick road surfaces.

Safety Tips:

- When walking, always use a sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing the traffic.
- When riding a bike or e-scooter, use bike lanes. If there is only a sidewalk, always give pedestrians the right of way. If you have to use the road, ride with the traffic.
- Bicyclists and walkers should wear bright or reflective clothing at night, and make sure you have bike lights or carry a flashlight if walking.

- 2. Fact = B.** Explain: Don't assume vehicles will stop for you, even if they have a stop sign or red light. The driver may not see you, might be distracted, or could speed up or turn without looking.



The National Road Safety Foundation



nrsf.org

Safety Tips:

- Make eye contact with drivers to ensure that they see you and are fully stopped.
- Watch for signs that a parked vehicle is about to pull out into your path (backup lights, engine noises, wheels turning).

3. Fact = A. Explain: Bicyclists and e-scooter riders must follow the same rules of the road as drivers — obey traffic signs, give turning signals, and drive defensively.

Safety Tips:

- Before entering or crossing traffic, stop and look left, right, then left again.
- If you're in a group, ride single file in the same direction as traffic, look out for hazards, and always stop for yellow lights and at intersections.
- Use hand signals when turning so drivers and pedestrians know what you are about to do.
- When in doubt, always yield to a car or pedestrian.

4. Fact = B. Explain: Everyone should have their eyes, ears, and minds on the road, not on their phones or other devices.

Safety Tips:

- Never drive, bicycle, or walk while wearing headphones, talking on the phone, playing a game, or text messaging — these can be deadly distractions.
- If you need to use your phone, stop and move out of the path of traffic.
- A good rule of thumb is, "Don't take a chance — it can wait!"

5. Fact = B. Explain: Whenever they are available, use marked crosswalks to cross the street.

Safety Tips:

- When crossing, look left-right-left for vehicles, including those turning and pulling out of driveways or parking lots.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely, and continue watching for traffic as you cross.
- Never dart out between parked cars.

Road-Sharing Safety Stats: Next, share these statistics with students:

- A pedestrian was killed every 85 minutes in a traffic crash in 2019. (NHTSA)
- Most pedestrian crashes happen away from intersections and in darkness. This reflects the importance of pedestrian visibility and infrastructure that promotes safe crossings. (GHSA)
- Bicycling deaths occur more often in urban areas than rural areas, and away from an intersection. Fatality rates are six times higher for males than females. (NHTSA)

Bicycling Safety: Discuss important bicycling tips students should follow before heading out for a ride. Ask:

1. *What is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself while biking?* Every bike ride should begin with putting on a helmet. Be sure it fits securely and always fasten the chin strap. Do not use a helmet that has been worn in a crash.
2. *Is it okay to ride a bike that is too big or too small for you?* No; it's harder to control a bike that doesn't fit you. Be sure you have full leg extension when pedaling and are able to touch the ground with your feet. Also make sure that your seat is the right height and locked into place.

3. *What are some features that your bike should have so others can see you when sharing the road?* Front and back lights, a rearview mirror, and reflectors on the pedals and wheels.
4. *What are three key things to check before a bike ride?* 1.) Air pressure: Pinch the bike's tires to check that they are inflated properly and look for any holes. 2.) Brakes: Check that the front and rear brakes work. 3.) Chain: Be sure that the chain is attached properly by spinning the pedal.
5. *What should you do with your belongings and clothing before you start cycling?* Carry items in a backpack or strapped to the back

of your bike. Tie your shoelaces and tuck in pant legs so they don't get caught in your bike chain.

Driving Safety: Talk with students about safety measures that drivers must take to share the road safely. Review the tips on the reproducible family letter to launch the discussion. Make it into a true or false game fashioned after Part 1 of the activity sheet and help dispel any misperceptions the students have.



Part 2: Have students work in small groups to assess the road-sharing scenarios and decide on the safest course of action for each one. Students might write their responses to share with the class. Use the most effective safety ideas to create a classroom "Rules of the Road" list. As an extension, students can write a blog article for the school website or create social media posts related to road-sharing safety.

FAMILY TAKE-HOME LETTER

We encourage you to make copies of the family letter or include a link to it in your email communications with parents and caregivers to inform them about Drive2Life and provide them with tips for talking with their children about road-sharing safety to help keep your community safe.

2022 DRIVE2LIFE PSA CONTEST

To enter the **Drive2Life PSA Contest**, students ages 13

to 19 in grades 6–12 must write a script not more than two pages on 8.5 x11-inch paper for a 30-second PSA video to encourage drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and e-scooter riders to share the road safely. See the Contest Overview, Entry Form, and Official Rules at ymiclassroom.com/drive2life for contest details and entry information. Entries may be submitted online or by mail by teachers or parents/caregivers.

Deadline: Entries submitted online must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 21, 2022. Entries submitted by mail must be postmarked by March 21, 2022, and received by March 28, 2022. For a supporting lesson on creating PSAs, download the PSA Lesson at ymiclassroom.com/drive2life.



RESOURCES

- National Road Safety Foundation – nrsf.org
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – nhtsa.gov/risky-driving
- Governors Highway Safety Association – ghsa.org/GHSA/Active-Transportation-Safety-Best-Practices

Road-Sharing Safety: Myths vs. Facts



PART 1 Whether you are walking, biking, riding an e-scooter, or driving a car, staying safe on the road is a shared responsibility. Each row in the table below contains one fact and one myth. Circle the statements you think are true when it comes to sharing the road.

	A	B
1	Bike incidents, injuries, and deaths most often occur after dark and in the winter.	Bike incidents, injuries, and deaths most often occur during the day in the summer.
2	When crossing the street, if you can see a driver, they can see you.	A driver may not see you when you are crossing a street. Make eye contact and be sure the driver is fully stopped before you cross.
3	Bicyclists have the same responsibilities and must obey the same traffic rules as drivers.	Bicyclists do not have to follow the same rules of the road as drivers.
4	If you know your route well, it's okay to listen to music on headphones or send a quick text while you are walking, driving, or biking.	Always stay alert and don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes, ears, or mind off the road.
5	If you can't see or hear any cars near you, it's okay to ride or walk in the middle of the street.	Always ride your bike in designated bike lanes, on the sidewalk, or on the right side of the road, and only cross at intersections.

PART 2 Below are scenarios you might encounter when sharing the road. With your group, discuss each one and determine the best way to stay safe.

1. You've just finished studying at a friend's house and it's dark out. You are going to ride your bike or walk home. There aren't a lot of traffic signals on your path and it's also raining lightly. What are 3 to 5 key steps you can take to help you get home safely?
2. You and your friends are walking around town on a busy Saturday afternoon. One friend is playing music, two are dancing along, and another is talking on the phone. Thinking about a specific area you know well, how would you help your group navigate the route safely?
3. A younger sibling or neighbor has just gotten a new bike and is unsure what to do to prepare for their first ride. What are some key steps you would tell them to take to stay safe on the road?
4. You're in the car with a friend who keeps looking at their phone, rolling through stop signs, and turning to chat with someone in the backseat. There are kids playing in the area, people walking dogs, and a lot of bicyclists around. What do you say to the driver?
5. When walking home from school, you see a friend rushing to catch a bus by crossing in the middle of the street where there is a lot of traffic and a line of parked cars along one side of the road. What should your friend have done to proceed safely?

