

Lesson 2: Against Drunk Drivers

Common Topic

Answer the following questions about the common topic: drunk driving.

What is drunk driving? Drunk driving is the operation of a motor vehicle while one's mental and physical faculties are impaired by an excess of alcoholic drink.

What is its opposite? The opposite of drunk driving is the operation of a motor vehicle while one's mental and physical faculties are not impaired by an excess of alcoholic drink.

What thoughts lead a person to drunk driving? "One drink won't hurt me. I deserve to drink because I've had a bad day. I'm not drunk. I'm in control. I've got to get home, and its not that far anyway."

Why should drunk driving be punished? It should be punished because it violates safe driving laws, and it can cause fatalities; also, punishment will make the roads safer by deterring other drunk drivers, and it will honor the victims, etc.

I. Prologue

The first paragraph is called the Prologue. It introduces the Common Topic.

Thesis

Write a general argument introducing the Common Topic and calling for punishment.

Write your answer: Whoever drives an automobile while under the influence of alcohol should be punished.

Head of Purpose - Consequence (Rhetorical Question)

Write an if/then question that shows that a positive outcome is unlikely and a negative outcome is likely, if this person is pardoned.

Write your answer: If letting the drunk driver go free without consequence would make our roads safer, then we might do it; but since he will only continue to recklessly endanger our citizens, how can we unleash him on the streets?

Head of Purpose - Expediency

Compare the expediency of dismissing the charges in this particular case with other cases.

Write your answer: It might be prudent in other cases to give a second chance, but for this man, a second chance on the roads would be a disaster and not a kindness.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Metaphor.

[metaphor: “*the drunk on the road is a wild boar in a nursery*”] Whoever drives an automobile while under the influence of alcohol should be punished. If letting the drunk driver, *who is a wild boar in a nursery*, go free without consequence would make our roads safer, then we might do it; but since he will only continue to recklessly endanger our citizens, how can we unleash him on the streets? It might be prudent in other cases to give a second chance, but for this man, a second chance on the roads would be a disaster and not a kindness.

2. Contrary

The Contrary paragraph describes what is contrary to this person.

Head of Purpose - Honor

Write a transition sentence introducing a person who has acted with intentions opposite to the evildoer.

Write your answer: We can better conceive the intentions of the drunk driver by considering the intentions of a conscientious driver.

Head of Development - Cause

Describe the actions of the agent who acted opposite to the evildoer, and why they acted as they did.

1. Recognition: good driver on the roads
2. Reversal: a man who is tempted by drink decides to be wise
3. Suffering: temptation to drink
4. Agent: cautious automobile operator
5. Action: deciding to be alert
6. Time: when navigating
7. Place: the highways
8. Manner: cautiously
9. Cause: preserve his life and the lives of others

Write your answer: The cautious automobile operator acts contrary to the drunk driver by wisely deciding to be alert when navigating the highways so that he preserves his own life and the lives of others.

Head of Development - Epilogue

Concisely summarize the Cause.

Write your answer: The privilege of driving is something that should not be taken lightly, and should not be abused.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Dendrographia.

We can better conceive the intentions of the drunk driver by considering the intentions of a conscientious driver. The cautious automobile operator acts contrary to the drunk driver by wisely deciding to be alert when navigating the highways. He does this to avoid hitting other vehicles, *trees that grow close to the roadside*, and pedestrians walking the sidewalks or crossing the street. The privilege of driving is something that should not be taken lightly, and should not be abused.

3. Exposition

The Exposition paragraph reveals the thoughts that led to this person's actions. The purpose is not to inform, as the facts are already known, but to provoke the audience.

Head of Purpose - Possibility

Compose a transition sentence that contrasts the evildoer with the agent in the Contrary.

Write a variation: The drunk driver did not have the same intention as a conscientious driver because he decided to operate a car with physical and mental impairment.

Head of Development - Cause

Convey the thoughts of the evildoer that led to committing his crime. Use Sermocinatio.

1. Recognition: rationalizing a bad decision
2. Reversal: a citizen who promises to be a responsible driver decides to drive drunk
3. Suffering: drunk driver is "down"; driver is prideful; drunk driving
4. Agent: irresponsible driver
5. Action: driving while intoxicated
6. Time: while drunk
7. Place: on the roads
8. Manner: irresponsibly
9. Cause: does not want to call for a ride; thinks he is above the law

Write your answer: The thoughts of the irresponsible driver led to his crime in this way: "A few drinks didn't ever hurt anyone. A man's entitled to liquor when's he's down, and besides, a little liquor won't do any harm, not for me. I can handle it. It's just five miles home, and I'm not about to go asking for a ride when I can drive well enough myself."

Head of Development - Epilogue

Write a summary sentence.

Write your answer: These are the selfish thoughts of this man, who chose to put convenience and pride before the safety of others.

Head of Purpose - Honor

Call for punishment.

Write your answer: The drunk driver should not be pardoned because we should not forget the family of five returning home in their van, whom he hurt when he crashed into them.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Onomatopoeia.

The drunk driver did not have the same intention as a conscientious driver because he decided to operate a car with physical and mental impairment. The thoughts of the irresponsible driver led to his crime in this way: "A few drinks didn't ever hurt anyone. A man's entitled to liquor when's he's down, and besides, a little liquor won't do any harm, not for me. I can handle it. It's just five miles home, and I'm not about to go asking for a ride when I can drive well enough myself." These are the selfish thoughts of this man, who chose to put convenience and pride before the safety of others. We should not pardon the drunk driver, who, *with screeching wheels and a shattering of glass*, crashed into the van of a family of five returning home.

4. Comparison

This paragraph compares the crime with a lesser crime.

Analogy - Consequence

Compare the agent's crime to a lesser crime, and the consequences of each.

Write your answer: Exceeding the speed set by the law is reckless, but driving while drunk is worse. Driving over the speed limit results in penalty fees and, in some cases, a trip to jail, but manning a car without the ability to think and react adequately results in the loss of human life.

Head of Development - Epilogue

Restate the analogy and reaffirm the greater consequence of the Common Topic.

Write your answer: Speeding can cause an inconvenience, but driving drunk can destroy lives.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Dialogismus.

Exceeding the speed set by the law is reckless, but driving while drunk is worse. Driving over the speed limit results in penalty fees and, in some cases, a trip to jail, but manning a car without the ability to think and react adequately results in the loss of human life. One results in having to say, "I'm sorry for neglecting the value of rules," and the other means having to say, "I'm sorry for neglecting the value of other people." Speeding can cause an inconvenience, but driving drunk can destroy lives.

5. Intention

This paragraph shows that the agent intended to do evil.

Head of Purpose - Possibility

Write a transition statement showing that this person alone cannot claim his intentions were not evil.

Write your answer: Some men can defend their good intentions, but the drunk driver alone cannot.

Head of Purpose - Justice

Paraphrase the previous statement and call for punishment.

Write your answer: The drunk driver should not be allowed to escape punishment because it is not just to pardon a crime that was done intentionally by making the conscious decision to drive a car despite the obvious fact that one is drunk.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Synecdoche.

Some mouths can defend their good intentions, but the drunk mouth alone cannot. The drunk driver should not be allowed to escape punishment because it is not just to pardon a crime that was done intentionally by making the conscious decision to drive a car despite the obvious fact that one is drunk.

6. Digression

This paragraph describes how this person must have lived in the past.
The purpose is to conjecturally abuse the agent's past.

Head of Purpose - Legality

Compare the evildoer to all other men, and assert that only he should also have to answer for his past deeds.

Write your answer: Some men are forgiven and released by virtue of the good they accomplished in the past, but the drunk driver's history condemns him.

Converse

Write a sentence about a vice in this man's past that relates to the Common Topic.

1. Recognition: choosing selfish desires over friends and family; drunkenness ruins a life
2. Reversal: a happy man with a family and friends devolves into alcoholism
3. Suffering: lost confidence of friends; draw of the bottle
4. Agent: drunk driver
5. Action: drinking; choosing alcohol over everything else
6. Time: indeterminate past
7. Place: at home; indeterminate places
8. Manner: selfishly; irresponsibly
9. Cause: let liquor guide him instead of his conscience

Write your answer: In his past, he gave in to the draw of the bottle and lost himself in it. He let liquor guide him instead of his conscience, even to the point that he was willing to put himself before his family, whom he hurt. He lost the confidence of his friends because he gave up their friendship for drunkenness.

Head of Purpose - Justice

Call for punishment based on this man's past and present.

Write your answer: By considering the past of the drunk driver, we deem that judgment is appropriate, both for the damage he has done to his own family, and for the irreplaceable losses he has caused to others.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Efficio.

Some men are forgiven and released by virtue of the good they accomplished in the past, but the drunk driver's history condemns him. In his past, he gave in to the draw of the bottle and lost himself in it. *His eyes became clouded, his hands unsteady, and his feet no longer walked a straight path.* He let liquor guide him instead of his conscience, even to the point that he was willing to put himself before his family, whom he hurt. He lost the confidence of his friends because he gave up their friendship for drunkenness. By considering the past of the drunk driver, we deem that judgment is appropriate, both for the damage he has done to his own family, and for the irreplaceable losses he has caused to others.

7. Rejection of Pity

This paragraph argues that pity should not stop this person from being punished.

Head of Purpose - Honor (Counter Argument)

First ask who will request this man's pardon, then give the answer.

Write your answer: Who will beg us to overlook the drunk driver's actions? The woman who bore him will try to kindle our compassion.

Head of Purpose - Justice

Explain why a request for pardon should be rejected.

Write your answer: This elderly matron will try to move us to pity by letting great tears fall and lifting her arms up to us in a final gesture of pleading, but the lady's pleas should be drowned out by the echoes of the screams of the mother, father, and children who were killed because of this man's drunkenness.

Head of Purpose - Justice

Call for punishment.

Write your answer: Put the drunk driver in prison and make our roads safer.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Amplification.

Who will beg us to overlook the drunk driver's actions? The woman who bore him will try to kindle our compassion. This elderly matron will try to move us to pity by letting great tears fall and lifting her arms up to us in a final gesture of pleading, but the lady's pleas should be drowned out by the echoes of the screams of the mother, father, and children who were *slaughtered* because of this man's drunkenness. Put the drunk driver in prison and make our roads safer.

8. Heads of Purpose

The Heads of Purpose are Legality, Justice, Expediency, Possibility, Honor, and Consequence.

Argue for punishment based on the six Heads of Purpose.

Legality

Write your answer: The drunk driver has not abided by life-saving rules, but has decided to disregard them by operating a vehicle while intoxicated, and he should be punished.

Justice

Write your answer: Putting the lives of others in harm's way deserves a penalty equal to it.

Expediency

Write your answer: Punishing the delinquent driver will ensure the safety of others who use the roads.

Possibility

Write your answer: All we need to punish the drunk driver is the assent of your voice to send him to a correctional facility.

Honor

Write your answer: To serve justice on behalf of the innocent is a worthy pursuit, and by punishing this criminal, we will avenge the innocent.

Consequence

Write your answer: Punishment will result in the restraint of this criminal's evil.

Rough Draft

Combine your variations into a paragraph. Add Hydrographia.

The drunk driver has not abided by life-saving rules, but has decided to disregard them by operating a vehicle while intoxicated, and he should be punished. Putting the lives of others in harm's way deserves a penalty equal to it. Punishing the delinquent driver will ensure the safety of others who use the roads. All we need to punish the drunk driver is the assent of your voice to send him to a correctional facility. To serve justice on behalf of the innocent is a worthy pursuit, and by punishing this criminal, we will avenge the innocent. Punishment will result in the restraint of this criminal's evil, like a dam restraining a raging river.

Final Draft

Proofread the rough drafts above, and correct errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. On a separate sheet of paper, combine the corrected rough drafts into the form of a final draft.