On-Road Problems and Off-Road Solutions

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When an individual gets into his or her vehicle to take a simple trip to work or school, they never know how dangerous it can be out on the road. Every day there are nearly 3,287 deaths and around 20-50 million individuals who are injured or disabled a year due to vehicle accidents. ("Road Safety Facts") Not only are there drivers who may become easily distracted, but there are also other factors that contribute to road safety such as the condition of the roads and weather.

Being a teen and college student, I am very familiar with the problems that occur on the road. Only a few years ago, I took my first drive as a licensed driver. Being a newly licensed driver can come with so many nerves and could take some time to get used to. In that time, one not only learns to drive around others but also learns to watch how the others drive that are around him or her. Using proper road safety not only helps new drivers as I once was, but it also helps elderly drivers who may not have as quick of a reaction as someone of a younger age. While driving to and from school, I realized how important road safety and signs are, especially when in unfamiliar areas and new environments. Even when there is hazardous weather, road signs and awareness could save many lives.

There are many laws to aid in road safety, but are they effectively making the roads a safer place to travel? Although violating safety laws that may pertain to seat belts or driving under the influence are punishable by law, the punishments seem to be minor. Traffic tickets, for example, are often taken lightly because they can be paid right off. In my opinion, if the punishments were an increased level of severity, the laws would be taken more seriously. Overall, that would result in safer road conditions due to the fact that more people would abide by the laws given.

Aside from changing the laws, individuals, including myself, could take a step forward in improving road safety every day. One major step to safer road conditions would be being more alert and aware of surroundings. This would include watching for other cars and pedestrians while also not allowing yourself to get distracted. Another step for drivers would be to drink responsibly and plan accordingly. Instead of buzzed or drunk driving, individuals could simply

use a ride-sharing mobile app such as Uber or Lyft that will safely transport them to their

destination and avoiding the possibility of them hurting themselves and others. With these steps

along with the improvement of laws, roads could become much safer for drivers to travel on.

Road safety would not only be taken more seriously, but it could also be practiced more often

among younger and inexperienced drivers.

Bibliography

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