

Kassandra Navarro

English 87

T/Th 1:30-4pm

Mr. Bini

11/21/13

My Friend Jessica

Have you asked yourself are drunk drivers being punished properly for driving under the influence? According to statistics, every fifteen minutes on average, someone is killed in a drunk driving accident. About 9,878 people died in 2011 because an irresponsible person was driving under the influence. Some people believe that a person found guilty of drunk driving and paying up to \$1000 in fines and serving six months in jail is a very fair punishment and a lesson learned for their mistakes. Others believe that serving six months in jail and paying a fine is not enough of a punishment for what they have caused. I believe that drunk drivers should be punished even more than a fine and six months in jail. I think that their driver's license should be removed forever, and they should not be allowed to drive.

First of all, I think this punishment that I propose may make them think that the actions they performed were not right. This could make them believe that drinking and driving is a very important matter to keep in mind. This law could result in fewer accidents, injuries and deaths. I believe that we need to prevent one more child or adult from dying in a drunk driving accident. We need to stop more drunk drivers from hitting innocent people out in the streets.

Second, if all drunk drivers are not being punished properly and their driver's licenses are not being removed, many drunk drivers are more likely to repeat the same behaviors and cause more deaths. For example, one of my older cousins used to drink and drive. Every time he was

stopped by the police he was never punished properly. Then after a few weeks he would repeat the same actions. He was not just threatening his life, but also the lives of others.

Third, all drunk drivers should be put in jail for one or more years. This may also prevent accidents and cause a big reduction of deaths. The punishment of being in jail could also have a very big impact on drunk drivers. This could make them think more about what actions they are going to take if they decide to drink again. A few years ago I experienced a drunk driver's accident. I was at a party with a group of friends from high school; we were having a lot of fun and some of my friends were drinking. I told them to keep the drinking to a limit because they were going to drive. But they didn't care. They continued drinking. It was getting late, and I noticed that my friend Jessica wasn't around. I asked one of my friends if he had seen her, and he told me that she went home. I told him, "Why did you let her leave? She was drunk." She had told him, that she was ok to drive. So then I decided to go look for her. I knew the way she took back home. I was like five to ten minutes away from the party, when up ahead I noticed that a lot of cars were slowing down. Then as I got closer I saw that there had been a car accident. The first thing I thought about was Jessica. So then I decided to pull over. I saw Jessica's car tipped over. I knew right then that Jessica had gotten into the accident. Seeing Jessica laying there dead and knowing I couldn't do anything to save her was a very horrible experience. I think that the reason that Jessica was drinking that night was because she was influenced by a group of friends that dared her to drink.

I also consider that these types of influences make you do things that you don't want to, but you do them to look good in front of others. It's always important to think twice before doing something that you will regret later in life. I believe drunk drivers should have their licenses removed forever and should be put in jail for one or more years. If all of these matters are taken

into consideration, many deaths could be prevented and a big number of drunk driver accidents could be reduced. “So always keep in mind: don’t drink and drive.”