English 9H – Research Project

**Outline**

**Topic:** Cell Phones in the Hands of Drivers: A Risk or a Benefit?

**Thesis:** Unless the risks of cell phones are shown to outweigh the benefits, we should not restrict their use in moving vehicles; instead, we should educate the public about the dangers of driving while phoning and prosecute irresponsible phone users under laws on negligent and reckless driving.

*Include revised thesis.*

*Body paragraphs most likely match the topics on your note cards*

**Body Paragraphs:**

1. Scientific studies haven’t proven a link between the use of cell phones

and traffic accidents.

*Outline should include FULL sentences for your topic sentences, but the information following can be bulleted.*

1. Redelmeier Study
2. Most states don’t keep records on accidents caused by distracted

drivers

1. Survey of research – Cain and Burris report
2. The risks of using cell phones while driving should be weighed against

*The number of body paragraphs is not pre-determined; the number of main ideas dictates how many body paragraphs you will have.*

the benefits.

1. Harvard Center for Risk Analysis – risks of driving while phoning

vs. other driving risks

1. Safety, business, and personal benefits to cell phone in car
2. Good Samaritan acts made possible with cell phones
   1. The case of “Roadside Rosie” – was able to quickly call for help
3. We need to educate drivers on using cell phones responsibly and enforce laws on negligent and reckless driving.

***\*\*Granted, this outline is pretty simplistic, but you get the idea…***

1. How to educate drivers
   1. Public service announcements
   2. Flyers at the DMV
   3. Programs aimed at teen drivers
2. Benefits of educating drivers
3. Enforcing laws against negligent and reckless drivers
   1. Benefits of enforcing
   2. Challenges – problems law enforcement confronts when trying to enforce
   3. Possible solutions
4. Public lobbies for improvement in laws