

Chapter 8

Responsibility and Accountability

Content Notes

Approximate time required to complete this chapter: **Three hours**

Classroom Concepts:

- 8.1 Drowsy Driving
- 8.2 Driving Under the Influence
- 8.3 Distracted Driving
- 8.4 Road Rage

8.1 - Drowsy Driving

Driving while fatigued is another type of impairment most people think very little about before they get behind the wheel and end up in trouble. The learner will develop an understanding of how fatigue and sleep deprivation affect the driving task.

Fatigue and Sleep Deprivation

When you are behind the wheel of a car, being sleepy is dangerous. Sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment, just like alcohol and other drugs. And, just like alcohol and other drugs, sleepiness can contribute to a collision.

Most people know how dangerous drinking and driving is - driving drowsy can be just as fatal as driving impaired. It is difficult to attribute crashes to sleepiness because there is no test to determine its presence, as there is for intoxication (e.g., a “breathalyzer”). The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) estimates that drowsy driving-related crashes account for roughly 20% of all motor vehicle crashes. In fact, data from the AAA Foundation indicates that sleepiness is implicated in 21% of all motor vehicle crashes resulting in a death and 13% of motor vehicle crashes resulting in hospitalizations—totaling over 300,000 police-reported crashes, over 100,000 injuries, and over 6,000 deaths in the United States each year. Go to the National Sleep Foundation web site for additional information: <http://www.thensf.org>

Driving motorists should look for warning signs of fatigue

- Can't remember the last few miles driven
- Resistance to moving your eyes for mirror checks
- Drift from their lanes or hit a rumble strip
- Experience wandering or disconnected thoughts
- Yawn repeatedly
- Trouble keeping head up
- Difficulty focusing or keeping eyes open, your eyes close by themselves
- Tailgate or miss traffic signs
- Keep jerking vehicles back into the lane

Drowsy Driving

Many drivers unknowingly increase their risk by driving while drowsy. Research has revealed that driving while drowsy is as significant a risk as driving while intoxicated. We all know that we should not drive after drinking alcohol; and the more alcohol consumed, the greater the risk. Quite simply, if we drink and drive, our ability to process information and make sound decisions becomes dangerously diminished. Similarly, when a driver is drowsy, decision making becomes sluggish and hampered.

Fatigue and Sleep Deprivation

Every person needs a certain amount of sleep to operate efficiently—most need 7 or 8 hours. Research indicates teenagers need over 9 hours. If you go to bed later than usual and get up early, the result is a sleep debt. The only way to pay the debt is by sleeping. Your biological clock tells you when it's lunchtime, gives you pep at certain times of the day, and affects your body temperature. Most people's clocks run on a daily rhythm of approximately 24 hours. But what "time" it is differs from person to person. To become a safer driver, become aware of your own personal cycle so you can take extra care when you are likely to feel sleepy.

Who is Most at Risk?

All Drivers Who Are:

- Sleep deprived or fatigued
- Driving long distances without rest breaks
- Driving through the night, the early morning, or at other times when they are normally asleep
- Taking medication that increases sleepiness or drinking alcohol
- Driving alone
- Driving on long, rural, boring roads/Truck Drivers
- Frequent travelers, e.g., business travelers
- Young people

Solutions to Drowsy Driving

Become aware of your personal biological clock. What times of day do you feel most drowsy? Almost everyone feels sleepy in the middle of the afternoon. When you recognize that you are in a susceptible condition for drowsy driving, you can consciously search intersections, check your rear zone more frequently, and do the line-of-sight, path-of-travel eye dance. When your eyes begin to resist the movements, there is only one choice left for you. Find a safe place—such as at a well-lighted fast food restaurant parking lot—to rest. Lock the doors. Close your eyes and relax for 15 minutes. If you fall asleep, it should tell you that sleep was needed. If this pattern occurs frequently, investigate the possibility that you have a sleep disorder.

Nighttime is especially risky for drivers. Most people are programmed to sleep when it's dark, and sleep becomes irresistible late at night. Avoid driving during the "low" period between 2 and 6 a.m.

Myths & Facts - Common Misconceptions

Coffee overcomes the effects of drowsiness while driving.

False - Stimulants are no substitute for sleep. Drinks containing caffeine, such as coffee, cola, or energy drinks can help you feel more alert, but the effects last only a short time. And studies have shown that energy drinks can dangerously increase heart rate and blood pressure in healthy young people.

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/energy-drinks-side-effects-disturbed-heart-rhythm-high-bloodpressure-244727>

If you drink coffee and are seriously sleep-deprived, you are still likely to have "micro-sleeps" - brief naps that last around four or five seconds. At 55 mph, that's more than 100 yards: plenty of time to kill you.

I can tell when I'm going to go to sleep.

False - If you're like most people, you believe you can control your sleep. The truth is sleep is not voluntary. If you're drowsy, you can fall asleep and never even know it. You also cannot tell how long you've been asleep. When you're driving, being asleep for even a few seconds can kill you or someone else.

I'm a safe driver so it doesn't matter if I'm sleepy.

False - The only safe driver is an alert driver. Even the safest drivers become confused and use poor judgment when they are sleepy. In order to be a safe driver, you must have your eyes open - and that means staying off the road when you're sleepy.

I can't take naps.

False - Many people who say they are not tired will quickly fall asleep in a darkened room if they have not been getting enough sleep. If you think you can't nap, stop the car, and recline for 15 minutes anyway. You may be surprised how easily you fall asleep once you give yourself the chance. If you're concerned about safety, plan your route so you can use well-lit rest areas or truck stops on heavily traveled roads. The busier the place you stop to rest, the less opportunity for crime. Always lock doors and roll up windows.

I always get plenty of sleep.

Maybe False - Chances are good that you really aren't getting all the sleep you need. The average person needs seven or eight hours of sleep a night. If you go to bed late and wake up early to an alarm clock, you probably are building up a sleep debt during the week. If you spend eight hours in bed but still feel tired, you may have a disorder preventing you from getting enough sleep. Whatever the cause, avoid driving when you feel drowsy. Rearrange your schedule so you get enough sleep during the week.

Being sleepy makes you misperceive things.

True - Have you ever driven at night and seen something you thought was an animal but turned out to be a paper bag or a dead leaf? That's only one of the many ways sleepy drivers misjudge their surroundings. A drowsy driver doesn't process information as fast or as accurately as an alert driver and is unable to react quickly enough to avoid a collision.

Young people need less sleep.

False - In fact, teenagers and young adults need more sleep than people in their 30's. They often get less because they enjoy staying up late and have a wide range of responsibilities. Teenagers and young adults who get up early tend to feel alert in the evening. They think that means they don't need much sleep. The problem is that temporary alertness wears off later, and they can end up driving home drowsy.

8.2 - Driving Under the Influence

There are physical, psychological, and mental effects from alcohol, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs. They have many impacts on the task of driving. There are also legal consequences of DUI and MIP.

Laws and the Legal Consequences of Driving after Drinking

The State of Oregon prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle by a driver with a .08 percent or above blood alcohol concentration (BAC). The .08 BAC limit is the standard measure of the "impaired" driver across the United States. In addition to the .08 limit, the State of Oregon has lower limits for commercial drivers (.04) and a .02 or Zero Tolerance limit for drivers under the age of 21. It is important to remember that a person over the age of 21 may have a (BAC) lower than .08% and still be convicted of a DUI.

<http://dui.drivinglaws.org/oregon.php>

The State of Oregon DUI law also prohibits driving under the influence of other intoxicants such as inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, and many other drugs.

If convicted of DUI

Your driving privileges will be suspended. Suspension lengths vary. They can be one year, three years, or permanent. A suspension or revocation resulting from a DUI conviction is separate from any suspension

you may receive under the Implied Consent law. Additionally, a person convicted will pay a large fine, may go to jail, and insurance will likely increase.

Ignition Interlock Device

An ignition interlock device (IID) is a computerized breath analyzer. An IID connects into a vehicle's ignition system. Prior to starting a vehicle equipped with an IID, the driver must provide a breath sample by blowing into the handset of the IID. The IID will prevent the vehicle from starting if the alcohol content in the driver's breath sample exceeds a preset limit.

Persons convicted of an Oregon DUII must install an Ignition Interlock Device in order to:

- reinstate your driver license after the DUI conviction suspension period ends, for a period of one year (for a first DUI conviction) or two years (for a second or subsequent DUI conviction) following the end of the conviction-based suspension. (See OAR 735-070-0080 and ORS 813.602)
- receive a hardship permit during the suspension period for the DUII conviction

Requirements for Screening Interview and Treatment Program 813.021 When a court requires a person to complete a screening interview and a treatment program, the person will:

- Complete a screening interview for the purpose of determining appropriate placement of the person in a program for treatment for alcoholism, drug dependency or dependency on inhalants.
- Pay directly to the agency or organization conducting the screening interview a fee of \$150.
- Complete the treatment program to which the person is referred.
- Pay for the treatment program to which the person is referred.

DUII is a Class A Misdemeanor or a Class C Felony 813.012

In Oregon, misdemeanor DUII is punishable by a maximum sentence of one (1) year in jail and a fine up to \$6,250.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/Pages/driverid/suspreasons.aspx>

Additional Punishment for DUI While a Passenger Under 18 was in the Vehicle

In addition to other penalties associated with Oregon's DUI laws, if an offender commits a DUI while a passenger under 18 was in the vehicle and the minor passenger was at least three years younger than the driver, the maximum fine is \$10,000.

The offender's Oregon driving privileges are suspended for one or three years or revoked for the offender's lifetime, depending on the driving record.

Open Container Law - Class B Traffic Violation 811.170

A person commits the offense of violation of the open container law in a motor vehicle if the person:

- Drinks any alcoholic liquor while in a motor vehicle
- Possesses any bottle, can, or other receptacle containing any alcoholic liquor, which has been opened, or a seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed
- Keeps in a motor vehicle any bottle, can, or other receptacle containing any alcoholic liquor, which has been opened, or a seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed. (This paragraph applies only to the registered owner of any motor vehicle or, if the registered owner is not then present in the vehicle, to the driver of the vehicle. This paragraph does not apply if the bottle, can, or other receptacle is kept in the trunk of the vehicle, or kept in some other area of the vehicle not normally occupied by the driver or passengers if the vehicle is not equipped with a trunk. A utility compartment or glove compartment is considered within the area occupied by the driver and passengers. This does not apply to the living quarters of a camper or motor home or to passengers in a motor vehicle operated by a common carrier and used primarily to carry passengers for hire.)

Implied Consent Law 813.100

This law means that by driving a motor vehicle, you have implied that you will consent to a breath, blood, or urine test if a police officer asks you to take such a test. The officer may ask you to take a test if you have been arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII). Refusal to take a test is admissible as evidence in court. If you are under 21, you will fail the test if it shows you have a blood alcohol content of **any** amount. If you are 21 or over, you will fail the test if your blood alcohol reading is 0.08 percent or more. An implied consent suspension is separate from any suspension you may receive as a result of a DUII conviction. If you have a valid Oregon driver license in your possession, the officer will confiscate it and issue a 30-day temporary driving permit. After 30 days, the suspension is in effect. Suspension lengths vary. If you are arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants, and you:

Take a breath test and fail it

DMV will suspend your driving privileges for 90 days. If you have any prior alcohol-related entries on your driving record within five years, DMV will suspend your driving privileges for one year.

Refuse to take a breath test

DMV will suspend your driving privileges for one year. Conviction of this charge may result in a fine up to \$1000. If you have any prior alcohol-related entries on your driving record within five years, DMV will suspend your driving privileges for three years.

Refuse to take a urine test

DMV will suspend your driving privileges for one year. Conviction of this charge may result in a fine up to \$1000. If you have any prior alcohol-related entries on your driving record within five years, DMV will suspend your driving privileges for three years. The suspension for refusing a urine test will not start until any other Implied Consent suspension (even from the same arrest) is over.

Refuse to take a blood test while receiving medical care in a health care facility following a motor vehicle crash

DMV will suspend your driving privileges for one year. If you have any prior alcohol related entries on your driving record within five years, DMV will suspend your driving privileges for three years.

Fail a blood test while receiving medical care in a health care facility following a motor vehicle crash

DMV will suspend your driving privileges for 90 days. If you have any prior alcohol-related entries on your driving record within five years, DMV will suspend your driving privileges for one year.

Minor in Possession 471.430 (Criminal Violation)

In Oregon you can be charged with MIP if you are under 21 and possess any amount of alcohol, even if you have consumed none of it, and even if it is in a sealed container. When minors are in possession of alcohol, they are either holding the alcohol, have consumed the alcohol, or attempted to purchase the alcohol. They will be referred to juvenile court or receive a criminal citation. The minor will be fined and/or required to perform community service. Minors/juveniles may be sent to alcohol assessment and treatment. Minors may consume sacramental wine as part of a religious service. You can be charged with MIP if you are under 21 and consume any amount of alcohol, even just a sip. The minimum fine is \$265 and the maximum fine is \$1,000.

http://www.oregon.gov/olcc/docs/publications/oregons_alcohol_laws_and_minors.pdf

The DMV can also suspend your license for an alcohol offense not related to driving, such as MIP. DMV, when ordered by the court, may suspend a person's driving privileges if the person is between 13-20 years of age (at the time of the offense) and is convicted of an offense involving the possession, use, or abuse of alcohol.

Alcohol Facts

What Does Alcohol Do to a Person?

Alcohol is a drug that depresses the central nervous system. As a depressant, alcohol slows the activity of the brain and the spinal cord. Initially the drinker experiences the depressant action of the alcohol in reduced tension and lowered inhibitions. These feelings can frequently be observed in the drinker as she or he becomes more active, talkative, and loud, and as he begins to do and say things that are not a part of his or her normal behavior pattern. If enough alcohol is consumed, the results can progress to drowsiness, sleep, unconsciousness, and, eventually, death. Unlike most food, alcohol does not have to be digested. Once swallowed, it is absorbed directly into the blood stream through the walls of the stomach and small intestine. However, if there is food in the stomach, this absorption process may be slowed.

As the amount of alcohol in the blood increases, several things happen to the body: vision becomes impaired, depth perception becomes distorted, and the pupils of the eyes react more slowly to variations in light. Coordination deteriorates, the ability to solve problems is reduced, and the ability to recall past events or learned knowledge is diminished. The mind simply cannot manage to put it all together and, as a result, the person may exhibit poor judgment.

Fortunately, the effects of alcohol are temporary for the moderate drinker. Very small quantities of alcohol are eliminated through sweat, breath, and urine. The body disposes of most alcohol through oxidation (burning) in the liver. The oxidation takes place at a constant rate and nothing can be done to slow down or accelerate the process. It continues until all of the alcohol has been burned; in other words, only time will "sober up" a person.

Five factors that affect BAC are:

1. Number of standard drinks
2. Body weight
3. Gender
4. Time
5. Food

By food, it is implied that a good meal is in the stomach (not a few potato chips) before moderate drinking begins.

Other Factors That Influence a Person's Subjective Experience of the Effects of Alcohol Are:

- Mood: a person who is depressed may feel the effects more quickly.
- Tolerance: a person who drinks regularly may show fewer outward effects because they learn to compensate for some of the effects of alcohol.
- Fatigue: a person who is tired may feel the effects of alcohol more quickly.
- Experience: how long and how much a person has been drinking.

Alcohol begins entering the bloodstream immediately as it reaches the stomach. Most of the alcohol passes to the small intestine, where it is absorbed and enters the bloodstream in as little as 20 minutes, depending on various factors. The body eliminates alcohol at a constant rate of .015% per hour. The simplest way to think about blood alcohol levels is to compare the drinking process to filling a tub. You can run the tap as fast or as slow as you want, but the bathtub drain (in this case a very small drain) will allow it to empty only so fast. The "blood alcohol tub" will drain only at the rate of .015% BAC per hour.

Immediate Effects of Alcohol	BAC
1. Decision Making	.03-.04
2. Release of Inhibitions	.04

3.	Reflexes	.05-.10
4.	Coordination/Motor Ability	.10
5.	Confusion/Disorientation	.15
6.	Stupor	.20-.30
7.	Coma	.30-.40
8.	Death	.40 or more

Risk of Crash Death Much Greater Even at Low BAC Levels (2.5% Increased Risk)

- Vision
- Attention
- Perception
- Reaction Time
- Tracking, Steering
- Information Processing
- Coordination

Other Substances Effects of Stimulants

- Gives user a feeling of high energy and alertness leading to increased risk taking
- Sometimes used to try and stay awake when tired
- Reduced reaction time, impair motor skills, dims vision
- Aggressive and overconfident

Effects of Depressants:

- Become very relaxed
- Lose inhibitions
- Irritability
- Confusion
- Drowsy
- Dizzy
- Poor hand-eye coordination

Laws for Marijuana in Oregon

Marijuana Laws in Oregon have changed for adults 21 and older. It remains illegal for Minors in Oregon to possess or use Marijuana. The laws for drugged driving or impaired driving under the influence of Marijuana have not changed. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicants. The use of Marijuana makes driving a car unsafe—just like driving after drinking alcohol. Drugged driving puts not only the driver but also passengers and others who share the road at risk. Marijuana can slow reaction time, impair judgment of time and distance, and decrease motor coordination. Research studies have shown negative effects of marijuana on drivers, including an increase in lane weaving and poor reaction time and attention to the road. Use of alcohol with marijuana made drivers more impaired, causing even more lane weaving.

After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often linked to drugged driving. Tests for detecting marijuana in drivers measure the level of *delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol* (THC), marijuana's active ingredient, in the blood. Because drugged driving puts people at an increased risk for crashes, public health experts urge

drug and alcohol users to develop social strategies to prevent them from getting behind the wheel of a car while impaired. Steps people can take include:

- offering to be a designated driver
- appointing a designated driver to take all car keys
- avoiding driving to parties where drugs and alcohol are present
- discussing the risks of drugged driving with friends in advance

NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) for teens has a lot of information you may want to share with your class including videos, facts, games, blogs, and real-life stories. <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/>

Children Learning through Education and Research Alliance (CLEAR Alliance)

CLEAR Alliance is another resource that provides educational tools that are cited and sourced with evidence and science-based research. Their goal is to reduce the impact substance abuse, mental health, and violence has on public health and safety, especially for youth. <http://www.clearalliance.org/>

Are there Breathalyzers to detect marijuana intoxication?

No. There are other ways impairment.

How will police officers catch stoned drivers?

Oregon State Police Sgt. Michael Iwai explained the process to The Oregonian/OregonLive last year when he was the state coordinator for the Drug Recognition Expert program.

- An officer pulls over a car for a traffic violation — speeding, swerving or broken taillights are common ones — or suspicion of a crime.
- The officer evaluates the driver. Some signs are obvious: bloodshot eyes, candy bar wrappers and what Iwai calls the "typical Beavis and Butthead laugh." Others are more subtle — for example, slightly protruding veins on the person's neck.
- If an officer suspects the person is intoxicated, he or she asks the driver to undergo a field sobriety test: balancing on a line and walking with one foot in front of the other, pivoting, balancing on one leg and touching one finger to the nose.
- If the person fails or the officer has enough evidence to suspect the driver is impaired, the driver is arrested and taken to jail or a police station.
- An officer trained in the Drug Recognition Expert program uses a [12-step test](#), with questions and physical tests. One telling test: Officers put the suspect in a dark room and turn on the lights. If the person's pupils don't shrink, drug use is likely.
- If testing indicates the person is high, the officer questions the person and tries to get him or her to crack. Some do, some don't.
- From there, officers make a call about whether to keep the person in custody. The case is forwarded to the prosecutor's office, which decides whether to press charges.

What makes marijuana and alcohol so different?

Unlike alcohol and its effects, scientists haven't established a direct correlation between marijuana's THC levels and impairment. Two people could have the same blood level, in other words, but significantly different experiences.

What's more, some research suggests marijuana users experience the height of the drug's effects after the active compounds have faded from detection.

It's nothing like alcohol. The concentration of THC in the blood does not correlate to the effects."

8.3 - Distracted Driving

Distractions come in many forms. They focus your mind on things outside the driving task and put you and others in serious danger. Engaging in an activity that takes your mind off the driving task diminishes your ability to make good decisions and take appropriate actions. Even a distraction of only a few seconds can put you or those around you in harm's way.

Oregon law prohibits teen use of cell phones and text messaging

- Handheld ban for all drivers (Primary law)
- Ban on all cell phone use (handheld and hands-free) for novice drivers (Primary law)
- Ban on texting for all drivers (Primary law)

Note:

Primary laws allow police to stop (and ticket) motorists solely for breaking that primary law.

Secondary laws permit police to ticket motorists only if they are stopped for other reasons such as speeding.

It is illegal to use a mobile communication device to talk, text or type on a keyboard while operating a motor vehicle. Drivers 18 and older may use a hands-free accessory, but the best (and safest) practice is just to wait until you are finished driving to use your cell phone or other hand-held device. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends that a driver use these devices only when the vehicle is stopped and the transmission shift level is in park.

Note:

Persons under 18 years of age are not allowed to "operate a motor vehicle while using a mobile communication device." A mobile communication device is defined as "a text messaging device or a wireless, two-way communication device designed to receive and transmit voice or text communication," including hands-free accessories. It is a primary offense and a Class D traffic violation, and a conviction counts toward the Provisional Driver Improvement Program.

811.507 - Operating motor vehicle while using mobile communication device

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) Hands-free accessory means an attachment or built-in feature for or an addition to a mobile communication device, whether or not permanently installed in a motor vehicle, that when used allows a person to maintain both hands on the steering wheel.
 - (b) Mobile communication device means a text messaging device, or a wireless, two-way communication device designed to receive and transmit voice or text communication.
- (2) A person commits the offense of operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile communication device if the person, while operating a motor vehicle on a highway, uses a mobile communication device.
- (3) This section does not apply to a person who activates or deactivates a mobile communication device or a function of the device or who uses the device for voice communication if the person:
 - (a) Is summoning medical or other emergency help if no other person in the vehicle is capable of summoning help;
 - (a) Is using a mobile communication device for the purpose of farming or agricultural operations;
 - (b) Is operating an ambulance or emergency vehicle;
 - (c) Is 18 years of age or older and is using a hands-free accessory;
 - (d) Is operating a motor vehicle while providing public safety services or emergency services;

- (e) Is operating a motor vehicle while acting in the scope of the persons employment as a public safety officer, as defined in ORS [348.270 \(Scholarships for children of public safety officers and former foster children\)](#);
 - (f) Is operating a tow vehicle or roadside assistance vehicle while acting in the scope of the persons employment;
 - (g) Holds a valid amateur radio operator license issued or any other license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and is operating an amateur radio;
 - (h) Is operating a two-way radio device that transmits radio communication transmitted by a station operating on an authorized frequency within the citizens or family radio service bands in accordance with rules of the Federal Communications Commission;
 - (i) Is operating a vehicle owned or contracted by a utility for the purpose of installing, repairing, maintaining, operating, or upgrading utility service, including but not limited to natural gas, electricity, water, or telecommunications, while acting in the scope of the persons employment; or
 - (j) Is using a function of the mobile communication device that allows for only one-way voice communication while the person is:
- (4) The offense described in this section, operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile communication device, is a Class D traffic violation. [2007 c.870 §2; 2009 c.834 §1; 2011 c.530 §1]

Note: [811.507 \(Operating motor vehicle while using mobile communication device\)](#) was added to and made a part of the Oregon Vehicle Code by legislative action but was not added to ORS chapter 811 or any series therein. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

8.4 - Road Rage

Thoughts, feelings, opinions, and character traits will have a positive or negative impact on every roadway user. The people you spend time with play a significant role in shaping your emotions and attitudes. Your outlook on the day will begin before you ever enter a vehicle. One way or another, it will be passed on to others. Every driver is responsible for operating their vehicle in a manner that is cooperative and causes no harm.

Explain the use of “eye contact” and communication tactics

The idea of making "eye contact" should only be used very selectively. Some drivers may interpret eye contact in a confrontational manner. You only want to establish eye contact if it is for a positive situation; for example, if you are attempting to enter a long line of slow-moving traffic and you want someone to let you into the traffic flow, establishing eye contact can help to communicate the message "may I enter in front of you?" That driver may respond by waving you to proceed. (Be sure they are not waving you into an unseen hazard.) However, if there is a car cutting you off, you would not want to blow your horn and establish eye contact, which would communicate that you are angry at that person. Ask the class to give examples of when establishing eye contact may lead to road rage. There may be times when a driver may attempt to wave you on.