

9th Grade Argumentative
Prompt: Raise the Driving Age

Yes, we should change the age guidelines for drivers in Utah because it will help save lives and it will relieve stress from the lives of teenagers. First it will help save lives of not only the teens driving, but also anyone else on the road. CBS News states, "More than 5,000 U.S. teens die each year in car crashes." This fact proves that it is not safe for teenagers to be driving. They also state, "The rate of crashes per mile driven for a 16-year-old drivers is almost 10 times the rate for adults." We need to give teenagers more time to mature into an adult before they start driving by themselves. The number one cause of death for teens is motor vehicle crashes. We can diminish this cause if we raise the age for driving. Teenagers are too distracted when they're driving, which causes them to not pay attention to what they're doing on the road. Teenagers will be driving with their friends, which is a big distraction, another distraction is cell phones. Instead of keeping their eyes on the road teenagers keep their eyes on their cell phone which causes them to wreck and possibly end their life and the lives of others. With friends in the car they may pressure you to do something that will put you and anyone else on the road at risk. They may pressure you to go beyond the speed limit. This proves why 16 year olds should not be driving it is simply not safe. Research shows that your control in judgment, decision making, and the coordination of multi-tasking doesn't fully mature until you're in your 20's. This is just another reason why 16 year olds shouldn't be driving on the road. They don't have the right maturity level to be driving.

Second raising the age limit will relieve stress from new 16 year old drivers. Once you reach the age of 18 you are considered a legal adult. Adult's maturity level is much higher than a 16 year old teenager. Their brain will have developed more and they will be more prepared to start driving by themselves. They will have more experience with being in the car with their parents. This gives them more opportunities to watch and learn from experiences their parents have. This knowledge will help them know what to do when they come across an important decision making experience. Although raising the age will help, there are still disadvantages for people like a 16 year old named Ryan Moore both of his parents work, so he had to get himself from football practice to his job as a life guard, according to the Chicago Tribune.

With all of the evidence presented above it is only right to raise the driving age. It will lower the rate of teens dying by car accidents. Drivers will be more experienced and will have less stress if we raise the age for driving.

Comment [RK1]: Claim

Comment [RK2]: Quotation cited with author tag

Comment [RK3]:

Comment [RK4]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK5]: Domain-specific vocabulary

Comment [RK6]: Internal transition within paragraph

Comment [RK7]: Transition between paragraphs

Comment [RK8]: Transition to counterclaim

Comment [RK9]: Claim restated

9th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	3
Evidence/Elaboration	3
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes an adequate argument that focuses for the most part on the prompt. It has a clear organizational structure, with an introduction and conclusion that state the claim. A counterclaim is addressed at the end of the second paragraph, although minimal analysis is included. The essay makes minimal use of transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and among ideas (internal transitions within the paragraphs) to show the text structure and organization.

The essay uses quotations from the passage set and cites them using author and title tags. Not all quotations are cited. The essay makes adequate attempts at elaboration. The essay makes use of academic (“diminished”) and domain-specific (“multi-tasking”) vocabulary and maintains an appropriate style and tone for the audience.

Editing errors in spelling, grammar, and mechanics are present, but do not obscure the meaning of the text.

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Changing the licensing age? I think no. It's a topic that is talked about heavily and thought about often. But I think it should be left at 16 where it is. If we move it back then people don't progress into their life stages as an adult. Mentally we are slowed down and the environment takes a big blow.

Comment [RK1]: Claim

If we move the driving age to 17-18 then as teenagers we don't get the opportunity to improve our decision making until we are almost twenty. We don't get the chance to make judgment calls that could help us improve our life and help us become more independent.

The state is trying to move the age back because they think that more accidents are caused by teen drivers. More teens may be involved in crashes, but that doesn't say the teens are always at fault. It could have been a 40 old man that has been driving for ages that decided to make a bad lane change

Until teens get comfortable driving I think they are the safer drivers. Someone that's been driving for years may get laid back and may crash due to the lack of alertness. Teenagers and new teen drivers on the other hand are almost scared and most alert if anything. If they are fresh with their license or permit they will be following traffic laws and constantly checking their mirrors unlike most adults today who only check their mirrors for lane changes.

Comment [RK2]: Academic vocabulary

It's been proven that raising the age isn't the only thing that can lower crash rates. Graduated license programs have dropped the number of accidents. Age isn't key, experience is. Ryan Moore a recently licensed 16 year old said " I've driven with some people who are horrible drivers even though they've been driving for a while, and I've driven with people who have little time on the road but are pretty good."

Comment [RK3]: Uncited reference to passage set

Comment [RK4]: Uncited reference to passage set

Raising the age means more moms and dads driving their kids to school until they are of age. That could create pollution problems. I know with younger drivers there are a lot more carpooling and less cars on the road.

Some people have situations where they need to drive as soon as they can. Some have family situations where they need a license to get to and from practices and games. Some may even need to get to work if they choose that way of life at that age.

In conclusion I stand with my statement and believe that the licensing age should not be moved back because of my previous supporting paragraphs.

Comment [RK5]: Basic transition between paragraphs

Comment [RK6]: Claim restated

9th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	2
Evidence/Elaboration	2
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes an argument, but often drifts to opinion statements that are not supported with textual evidence. It has a very basic organizational structure, including an ineffectively formulaic introduction and conclusion. The claim is weak and written as the introduction. No counterclaim is clearly addressed in the text. The essay makes use of rudimentary transitions between paragraphs (“in conclusion...”). Internal transitions within paragraphs are nonexistent.

The essay incorporates evidence from the passage set but does not cite the sources. In some cases, evidence is used erroneously. The essay makes some attempts at elaboration, but relies more on background knowledge than information from the passage set. The essay deploys some academic vocabulary (“alertness”), but does not achieve a formal tone or style appropriate to the audience.

While editing errors are evident, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.

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Why put an unexperienced teen behind the wheel? Teens are not prepared or ready to start driving at such an early age. Every year, more than 5,000 teens die in car crashes. States should raise the driving age to 18 instead of 16. By doing so, states can prevent some issues that come up with teens starting to drive at too early of an age. Teens aren't ready to drive at 16 because their brains aren't fully developed, more car accidents involving teens occur, and teens are easily distracted and give into peer pressure when driving. 16-year-olds are too young to drive.

Comment [RK1]: Claim

In the article "Should 16-year-olds drive?" it states "...the teen brain is at a particularly vulnerable point in development. 16-year-olds have the logical reasoning of an adult, experts say. But their social and emotional development remains relatively immature..." This article proves that teenager's brain is still developing and is not ready to make important, fatal choices. By raising the age limit, teenagers will be more prepared and have be more developed. The choices will be easier to make for 18-year-olds because they have more experience making hard choices. The teenage brain is not fully developed, therefore teenagers can't make correct choices.

Comment [RK2]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK3]: Quotation cited with title tag

Comment [RK4]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK5]: Paraphrased evidence from passage set cited with title tag

Comment [RK6]: Elaboration on quotation

Car crashes are a huge problem, especially when they involve teens. By raising the age limit to drive, the number of car crashes decrease. In the passage "Should the Driving Age Be Raised to 18?" it shares a story about four teenage boys crashing and two dying. The driver in this incident was 16-years-old. The deaths may have been prevented if the driving age was raised only two years. Also from the same article it states "Between 1995 and 2004, there were 30,917 fatalities in accidents that involved 15-to-17-year-old drivers, according to a study..." This shows that most cause of death for teens may be because of unexperienced drivers crashing. In Europe, many countries have a driving age of 17 or 18 which is in "States Urged to Raise the Driving Age". The percent of teens crashing in Europe is much lower because of this.

Comment [RK7]: Quotation cited with title tag

Teens are easily distracted, which I know from experience. My sister drives and I can tell she gets distracted by other people in the car and music. Teens are prone to get distracted and slip up. Sometimes it doesn't matter and no harm is done. Other times, teens aren't so lucky. In the article "Should 16-year-olds drive?" it shares "The teenage brain is particularly vulnerable to distraction and peer pressure." Combined, these two setbacks can cause major problems. Teenagers aren't ready or mature for driving at 16 either. They make poor choices because they don't know better. The brain developing is the biggest reason why teenager should drive at 18 not 16.

Comment [RK8]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK9]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK10]: Quotation cited with title tag

Comment [RK11]: Paraphrased evidence from passage set cited with title tag

Teenagers are not prepared to be put on the roads. Driving is a new, hard experience that should be made when you are 18. Even though some parents have to work and can't take their kids everywhere, it is for the better. It is better to drive your kids around than letting them drive, risking everyone's lives. The age for a driver's license should be raise from 16 to 18. The states should make this choice in helping their teenagers to be safe. The reasons are that the teenage brain isn't fully developed at 16, car crashes occur when teens drive, and they are easily distracted when driving others and themselves. Teens should not be on the road at that age because it risks everyone's lives, not just theirs.

Comment [RK12]: Restated claim

Comment [RK13]: Reiterated claim

9th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	3
Evidence/Elaboration	4
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes an adequate argument that focuses for the most part on the prompt. It has a clear organizational structure, including an acceptable introduction and conclusion that state the claim. No counterclaim is addressed. The essay has no transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) or among ideas (internal transitions within the paragraphs) to show the text structure and organization.

The essay uses quotations from the passage set and cites them using title tags. The quotations are relevant to the line of reasoning and are integrated smoothly. The essay makes effective use of elaborative techniques. The essay makes use of academic (“vulnerable,” “fatal,” “distracted,” “prone,”) vocabulary and maintains an appropriate style and tone for the audience.

While some editing errors are evident, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.

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At what age did you get your license? Would you personally want to have waited longer to get your license? I don't think so. I strongly believe that the Utah state legislators should not raise the driving age from sixteen to eighteen. First, your age does not define your maturity. Second, why change the age now? Finally, accidents are bound to happen no matter what age you get your license.

Comment [RK2]: Claim

First, your age doesn't define your maturity. Just because you are 16-years old does not mean you are immature and immediately going to crash a car as soon as you get your license. There are lots of immature adults and lots of mature teenagers. You cannot just define someone as immature or mature because of their age. Adrian Lund of the Governors Highway Safety Association said, "We're still losing a lot of teens on the road each year." Of course we are, accidents are inevitable. Accidents are caused by many things. Lots of people are reckless drivers. In the article, "Should the Driving Age be raised to 18?" it says, "All 50 states prohibit 16-year-olds from drinking alcohol." If 16-year-olds can't buy alcohol they probably are not the ones driving under the influence. And why would a 16 year old do anything to jeopardize their license? Most 16-year-olds are not the ones driving home at 2 a.m. from their job, possibly falling asleep at the wheel. In the same article it states, "Just because of your birthdate, are you dangerous?" You cannot control when you were born, or how old you are. But you can control the decisions you make and whether not they are the right decisions or the wrong decisions.

Comment [RK3]: Basic transition

Comment [RK4]: Quotation cited with author tag

Comment [RK5]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK6]: Quotation cited with title tag

Comment [RK7]: Academic vocabulary

Second, this is the way it has always been. Why are we changing the age now? If this was such a huge issue, why didn't we change the age years ago? In the article "States Urged to Raise the Driving Age" it reads, "Not surprisingly, a lot of teens hate the idea." Yes they are going to hate the idea. If teenagers are old enough to have a job at sixteen and have to get to and from school each day, why aren't they old enough to get their license at 16? In the article "Should 16-year-olds drive?" it states, "Ryan Moore, 16, got his driver's license in June. He needed his license as soon as possible. Both parents work, and he had to get himself from football practice to his job as a lifeguard." Teenagers have many responsibilities at their age and they need a license to get themselves to and from those responsibilities. If an accident happens at home such as a child getting bit by a dog, what should a 16-year-old without a license do? Should they call 911? But it's not an emergency. And if you call 911 and make an ambulance come for something that is not a huge deal, you could be taking an ambulance away from a life threatening accident. But you also can't sit there and let your little sibling bleed out. If a teenager had their license, they could easily drive the child to the hospital without taking an ambulance away from someone who needs it.

Comment [RK8]: Basic transition

Comment [RK9]: Quotation cited with title tag

Finally, accidents will happen no matter what age you are. It is just inevitable that accidents will happen. Even if everyone took every precaution and obeyed every driving law, accidents still happen and no one is to blame. Think back to when you were 15-years-old, about to get your license. Suddenly, a new law is passed and you now have to wait until you are 18 to drive. But you studied, and you know how to drive responsibly. But that does not matter because you are too immature to get your license. And a group of lawmakers decided for you that you are going to make the wrong choices when it comes to driving. Sure you might be new at driving and make a few mistakes now and then. But driving is a learning experience, and if you never learn then how are you supposed to know? Everyone has to learn to drive at some point and raising the age will not solve anything. The only thing it will do is make parents and teenagers angry. In the article "States Urged to Raise the Driving Age" it reads, "Many parents agree. They also like not having to chauffeur their teens to school, sporting events and any number of places." This is the way it will be if lawmakers raise the driving age to 18. People are not willing to drive teenagers wherever they want, whenever they want. Well, teenagers are willing to do it themselves they just need to be able to legally drive.

Comment [RK10]: Academic vocabulary

In conclusion I have stated above my three main reasons on why lawmakers should not raise the age for legal drivers from sixteen to eighteen. First, your age does not define your maturity. Second, this is the age it has always been, so why would we change it now? Finally, accidents will happen no matter what age you are.

Comment [RK11]: Basic transition

Comment [RK12]: Restated claim

9th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	3
Evidence/Elaboration	2
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes an argument and generally focuses on the prompt. It has an adequate organizational structure, including a weak introduction, somewhat muddled body, and stronger conclusion. A counterclaim is acknowledged and addressed in the fifth paragraph. The essay makes some use of transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and among ideas (internal transitions within the paragraphs) to show the text structure and organization.

The essay uses quotations from the passage set and cites them using author and title tags. However, the writer relies too heavily on material from one source. The essay makes adequate attempts at elaboration, but sometimes drifts into embellishment. The essay makes use of academic (“inevitable,” “jeopardize,” “precaution”) vocabulary and maintains an appropriate style and tone for the audience.

While errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics are present, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.

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I think 16 years olds should be able to drive because are brain is able to think way more I don't think we should be able to drive at 18 because we will have jobs at 15 and 16 and people have jobs like are age to day and we need a car for winter and rain and summer days so we need a car to go somewhere and ask an older person to give us a ride to work like say when where 16 and we have an important interview and we have a car to go to it and we will have our own money to pay for the car and payments and allot of people know how to drive and when where in high school we need a car we don't want to have a car when we graduate high school that makes us not drive at all like we will be able to drive in adult age what if a family member past away and no one can get u cause there in the hospital and or at home I need a car to hurry to get to places and some teenagers doe drive at 16 there fault and people die from it because of car crashes and really bad accident but 18 year olds die more because there older and think more and their parents say do whatever u want when your 18 so they do more people die around teen ages not just 16 and 17 its not far when we turn 16 ,17 and cars will never run out most people drive over cliffs and of course teens have parties it's fun at teen and most people I know don't drink because bad stuff what happens and law makers are not good at all only for good stuff for states and doctors are saying create more zombies say that for example it kills more people then teens of 5,000 a year and millions will die around years but I think we should be able though now days people don't drive and back then in 1935 to 2000 people were drinking and now its 2015 and people actually think more so we should cross of we shouldn't we should that's correct for me same with other people and teens have cars in other states at 14 that's more different that shouldn't be able to happen but we are going to drive if we have people to meet and do are thing this is all I wanted to say for driving at 16 ,17 we should be able to drive

Comment [RK1]: No clear claim

Comment [RK2]: No paragraphs/punctuation

9th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	1
Evidence/Elaboration	1
Conventions/Editing	1

This essay attempts to make an argument. It has no organizational structure and no claim is apparent. No counterclaim is acknowledged in the text. There are no transitions between ideas or paragraphs resulting in organization and flow that is confusing.

The essay makes no apparent use of evidence from the passage set. The essay does attempt elaboration, but relies exclusively on background knowledge. The lack of academic or domain-specific vocabulary does not establish an appropriate style or tone.

Editing errors in spelling, grammar, and mechanics are frequent, often obscuring the meaning of the text.

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I think the driving age should be changed from 16 to 18. This critical law change could potentially save thousands of teenagers' lives, who have their whole life ahead of them. Think about your kid starting to drive. He is so young! If something would happen to him it would be devastating. There are many reasons that this law needs to change.

Comment [RK1]: Claim

Comment [RK2]: Academic vocabulary

First of all, 16 year olds are too immature. In the article "Should 16-year-olds drive?" It says, "16-year-olds have the logical reasoning of an adult, experts say. But their social and emotional development remains relatively immature and seeks novelty and risk." 16-year-olds are cocky. They think they're adults, when in reality they're not. This gives them a false sense of security. This is dangerous for not only just the driver, but everyone else. If think they're so good at driving, they will push it to its limits. All they look for is speed and danger. I don't want these people on the roads.

Comment [RK3]: Basic transition

Comment [RK4]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [RK5]: Elaboration on quotation

Next, young teenagers are prone to peer pressure. In the political cartoon, you can see the boy has his friends in the back. He thinks he is so cool that he can text and drive. He just wants to fit in. This is very bad. Kids these days will do anything to seem cool. This becomes a great danger for kids and others on the road. Some examples of this is trying to impress his friends by showing off how fast his nice car can go. I think to most dangerous thing about driving with peer pressure is that it doesn't only affect one person. It affects multiple people. Teens also get distracted easier than adults. They always want to be doing something else. Combine those two factors together and you'll end up with a very reckless driver.

Comment [RK6]: Description/paraphrase of visual text with title tag

Comment [RK7]: Elaboration on visual text

Comment [RK8]: Internal transition

There also is proof that driving at an older age is safer. In the article "States Urged to Raise the Driving Age" It explains, "Institute researchers have compiled data from New Jersey, the only state that issues licenses at 17. The rate of teens killed in crashes in New Jersey has been consistently lower than in nearby states." I don't know about you, but I think that less teenagers dying from car wrecks is a very good thing. Imagine if you had a child driving. Wouldn't you want for him to see a bright future ahead of him? I think it's better to chauffeur your son around for a couple extra years than to loose him.

Comment [RK9]: Quotation with title tag

Comment [RK10]: Academic vocabulary

I also understand the other side of the story too. I get it that teenagers have places to be and no parents to take them there due to work or other things. But isn't it better to keep your life than to go to a football? I sure think so. In the article "Should the Driving Age Be Raised to 18" it says, "Studies show that it is inexperience, not age, that causes accidents." I believe this, but why risk it? Is it worth your life to drive a couple years sooner? I don't think so.

Comment [RK11]: Transition to counterclaim

Comment [RK12]: Counterclaim

In closing, changing the driving age is way better for many reasons. I could go on all day about why they should change the age. You can't just think about yourself when you try to argue this. These drivers aren't just risking their lives, but other people's too. Those two years is so short compared to the rest of their life and it is not worth dying over.

Comment [KD13]: Reiteration of claim

9th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	4
Evidence/Elaboration	4
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes a strong argument and focuses entirely on the prompt. It has a clear organizational structure, including an introduction and conclusion. The claim is stated in the introduction and revisited with supporting ideas in the conclusion. A counterclaim is effectively addressed in the fifth paragraph using information from the passage set. The progression of ideas is logical and communicated to the reader with transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and internal transitions within the paragraphs (“Additionally,” “Therefore”).

The essay uses quotations and paraphrased information from the passage set as evidence to support its claims and cites the sources. The evidence is integrated into the text smoothly. The essay also elaborates on the evidence for the reader as necessary. The writer uses multiple sources to support the claim and counterclaim. The writing occasionally uses informal language (“kids”), but the use of academic (“immature,” “chauffeur,”) vocabulary helps to achieve a more appropriate formal tone and style.

Few editing errors are evident, and they do not obscure the meaning of the text.