

FRIENDS DRIVING FRIENDS POLL: HAVE YOUR SAY

1. Activity Description

During National Teen Driver Safety Week, you can use this poll to ask students to give their opinions on four different questions about driving and to help educate them about safe passenger behavior. Whether you're a student organizer, community group leader, or high school teacher, it's a quick, easy, and a great way to teach teens about the dangers of passengers, positive passenger behaviors, and ways for drivers to communicate with their passengers. It can also help to start a conversation about the dangers of passenger distractions to teen drivers.

- a. Student organizers or project sponsors will set up a table (outside of school entrance, in a major hallway, or other area) under a large banner displaying the "question of the day" with pre-set answers (all are correct).
- b. The table will also have a secret ballot box along with pre-printed ballots that include answer choices A, B, C, D, or E on them.
- c. Students will be prompted by morning announcements to visit the table and answer the question of the day.
- d. The students circle A, B, C, D, or E and place their ballot in the box.
- e. Students are then given Ride Like A Friend stickers for participation (optional depending on resources)
- f. At the end of the day, the results are counted
- g. On the next day, the results are shared during morning announcements or other format chosen by school

2. Materials you will need:

- Poster paper or some type of paper that is large enough to use for a "banner"
- Markers
- Ride Like A Friend stickers (optional)
- Tape
- Ballot sheets
- Pens or pencils
- Table for the ballot box
- Empty box for students to place secret ballots (any sort of box will do—ask the office for one, bring one from home, or create one from a cereal box).

3. Steps to take

- Get permission. If your school has morning announcements you will need to ask if you may add a quick blurb on National Teen Driver Safety Week.
- Write the question of the day and possible responses on the banner and create a ballot box to collect the responses. Include simple directions, try something like: Give us your opinion. Grab a ballot sheet of paper, circle your answer, and put it in the box.
- Prepare printed or photocopied ballots with pre-set answer choices A, B, C, D, or E (up to the letters needed).
- Promote the activity via morning announcements, during the beginning of classes, and however else you can think of.
- Reserve a location and acquire table with appropriate school personnel. Set up table with ballots, ballot box, and pens/pencils; tape banner to wall; have assigned people 'man' the table. If possible, have a student organizer stand near the box to pass out stickers and encourage classmates to participate.
- Collect answers, and at the end of day tally results. Record the results.
- At the end of the day, make sure you've emptied the votes from the ballot box to prepare for tomorrow's announcements.
- Announce the results the next day in the way you choose with your project sponsor (e.g. morning announcements)

Timeframe		What to do
Before NTDSW begins		Gather your materials and follow the steps listed above. Decide which delivery method works best for your school (there are some alternative options at the end of this document).
During NTDSW	Monday	<p>ANNOUNCE IT: With your sponsor or principal approval, head to the office and announce the polling activity going on that day and the location. Remind students to stop by and give their opinion—it’s easy, and the anonymous results will be announced, posted online, and compared to other schools.</p> <p>You can use this script, or create your own: “This week is National Teen Driver Safety Week. We’re holding a student organized polling event, which is part of a national research project on driving. It’s not for McCain or Obama, but we want your opinion.</p> <p>POST IT: In a national poll, teens said that certain things made a difference in whether or not teens could be safe in cars. What do you think is the most harmful thing a passenger can do in a car?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. distracts the driver b. is loud (passengers talking loud, passengers making music too loud, etc) c. forgets to wear seat belts d. talks constantly on the cell e. pressures driver to speed f. acts wild (like dancing or singing)
	Tuesday (continued on next page)	<p>ANNOUNCE IT: Today, you’ll cover two things with morning announcements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remind students to stop by and give their opinion in the poll, and 2. Report the most popular answer from Monday’s poll. <p>You can use this script, or create your own: “Day two of National Teen Driver Safety Week brings us another poll. Stop by the ballot box to cast your vote and give us your opinion. Yesterday you told us the most harmful thing a passenger can do in a car. Here is the ranking of the most popular answers. [Announce most popular answers.]”</p>



Timeframe		What to do
During NTDSW	Tuesday (continued from previous page)	<p>POST IT: If you could create the perfect passenger to ride with you when you are driving, what’s the #1 characteristic you would choose?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. He or she buckles up (...so I don’t have to hear the annoying beeping seat belt sound) b. A better GPS than I could buy in the store (...gives clear directions whenever I ask) c. Is my #1 DJ (...keeps the volume down on the music and changes the channel whenever I want) d. Serves as my in-car personal assistant (...answers my calls or texts whenever I ask)
	Wednesday	<p>ANNOUNCE IT: Just like yesterday, you’ll remind students to vote and report the most popular answer(s) from Tuesday’s poll.</p> <p>You can use this script, or create your own: “Day three of the Friends Driving Friends Poll. Stop by the ballot box to cast your vote and give us your opinion. Yesterday you told us about your perfect passenger. Here’s what you had to say: [announce most popular answers]”. Look for today’s poll in the same spot and give us your vote.”</p> <p>POST IT: If you could create the perfect driver to take a ride with when you are a passenger, what’s the #1 characteristic you would choose?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keeps their eyes on the road b. Doesn’t talk on the cell c. Reminds all of the passengers to wear their seat belts d. Doesn’t speed e. Asks for my help when he/she needs it
	Thursday	<p>ANNOUNCE IT: You know the drill. You can use the following script, or create your own: “Today’s the last poll, so stop by and give us your opinion. Yesterday’s most popular answers included [announce most common answer here]. Tomorrow we’ll announce the most popular votes”</p> <p>POST IT: If you were driving, what would you say to a passenger if they were bothering you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ride like a friend b. Just chill c. Please...be quiet d. Your other option is the bus! e. *Project Sponsor or student organizer can come up with alternate choices...



Timeframe		What to do
During NTDSW	Friday	<p>On Friday, there’s no question to ask; all you need to do is make a few announcements.</p> <p>ANNOUNCE IT: You can use the following script, or create your own. Your principal or you can do these announcements: “Thanks to all who participated and voted this week. [Announce the top answers from yesterday’s poll]. This activity was all about recognizing passenger risk, learning how to ride like a friend and drive like you care. No matter what answer you voted for, you were right! All of the response choices throughout the week were correct and really we wanted you to weigh in with your opinion. Thanks again for your involvement in the activities and events of National Teen Driver Safety Week.”</p>



Other ways to conduct this activity in your school:

1. SECRET BALLOT BOX IN HOMEROOM
 - a. The question of the day is asked in homeroom (you'll need to arrange this with teachers or the Principal.)
 - b. Students will be given pre-printed sheets that include A, B, C, D, or E on them and prompted to answer the questions
 - c. The students circle A, B, C, D, or E and place their ballot in a box or collected by the homeroom teacher
 - d. Students are then given Ride Like A Friend stickers for participation (optional depending on resources)
 - e. Student organizers go to each homeroom and collect the responses
 - f. At the end of the day, the results are counted
 - g. On the next day, the results are shared during morning announcements
2. VOTING POLL BOOTHS
 - a. Student organizers or project sponsors will set up a booth similar to those used when we vote, e.g. with a curtain that can be drawn closed (could be outside of school entrance, in a major hallway, or other area) under a large banner displaying the "question of the day" with pre-set answers (You'll need to check with the Principal if this booth is available to you and where/when you can set it up.)
 - b. Students will be prompted by morning announcements to visit the booth and vote
 - c. Students are then given Ride Like A Friend stickers for participation (optional depending on resources)
 - d. At the end of the day, the results are counted
 - e. On the next day, the results are shared during morning announcements