

# WHAT IS A JUDGMENT DAY?



Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens. Over one-third of these traffic deaths are alcohol-related. A JUDGMENT DAY hopes to discourage students from impaired driving by utilizing students in a mock trial. The trail shows what actually happens to an underage DUI offender in the courtroom using local attorneys, judges, and other court officials. *(If at a college, cases can be adapted for those over 21 years of age.)*

**Trivia Announcements and Quiz (optional):** Members from the school's sponsoring organization may distribute literature concerning alcohol and drug related crashes (page 5 & 6). Facts are also read each day during school announcements during the week of the Judgment Day (page 7). A quiz is then given (page 8) and prizes are awarded to students correctly answering all trivia questions. *(Depending on how many prizes you receive, you may either give each student a prize, or draw names for the number of prizes.)*

**Introduction:** The MC introduces the program and sets the scene for the trial by reading the pre-selected scenario.

**Trail Begins:** Keep this part of the program as close to a courtroom as possible. The Bailiff enters and asks all to rise for the Judge, then calls the case and the trail begins. Real judges, attorneys and court officials proceed as they would in an actual case.

- Prosecutor gives opening statements
- Defense gives opening statements
- Prosecutor calls witness or witnesses
- Defense calls witness or witnesses
- Prosecutor gives closing statements
- Defense gives closing statements

**Jury Instructions:** The Judge explains conviction options to the jury (Ex. Manslaughter 1, Manslaughter 2, Reckless Homicide, Murder, etc.) He also explains they must come up with a verdict (guilty or not guilty) and the punishment (jail time, fine, community labor, etc.).

**Jury Deliberation:** The Judge sends the jury to deliberate with a time limit of 15 to 20 minutes.

**Guest Speaker (s):** While the jury deliberates, a speaker may talk about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body, how it impairs driving abilities, or the consequences of impaired driving. *(Testimonies by family members of impaired driving victims are often powerful. The department can provide names if necessary).*

**Closing:** Attorneys give five minute summary of cost for fees, procedure used with DUI's at the time of arrest, and assigned punishments.

# Program Checklist

**Use this list to determine if the Department of Transportation Safety or the school will provide or take care of these items:**

- Contact local judge, attorneys, and law enforcement
  - If the school has a Mock Trial team, they may act as the court officials.
- Contact guest speaker(s)
- Selection of court case and scenario (Examples on pages 3 & 4)
- Selection of student defendant and jury
- Items to set the stage for the courtroom (tables, chairs, etc.)
- Props (gavel, prison jumpsuit, handcuffs, shackles, etc.)
- Public address system
- Media advisory and press release for local media
- T-shirts for jury and participants
- Items to be given away if trivia is played

## Sample Scenario

Homecoming Weekend – a time for family, friends, food and fun! In **(city name)**, Friday night kicked off the weekend celebration of students, fans, and alumni. Seventeen year old senior \_\_\_\_\_ and his friends wanted to make their last high school homecoming memorable, so they found someone to purchase kegs of beer and a few bottles of liquor. They hosted a huge party, inviting everyone in the school, which lasted into the wee hours of the morning.

To continue the celebration, \_\_\_\_\_ decided to bypass the traditional breakfast and start his day off by mixing a Bloody Mary. Then, he and his friends headed to the field to find a prime parking spot for tailgating. The drinking continued all the way to kick-off.

It was a tight game, but to \_\_\_\_\_ it was a blur. He doesn't even remember the kick-off. \_\_\_\_\_ He did, however, think it would be a good idea to stop drinking at halftime. By getting some food and coffee, he would be sober enough to drive home.

On the other side of the stadium the Johnson family, a newlywed couple with an infant daughter and alumni of **(school name)**, enjoyed a typical family football afternoon which included hot dogs, popcorn, and soft drinks. The day was perfect. \_\_\_\_\_ defeated \_\_\_\_\_ with a last minute field goal. They decided to walk to McDonalds and celebrate with an ice cream cone.

Meanwhile, \_\_\_\_\_ headed to his apartment to catch a nap in hopes of rejuvenating himself for the upcoming festivities. He didn't realize his vision was blurred and reaction time was severely slowed. Up ahead was a stop light, which had been red for several seconds, allowing the Johnson family to cross the street at the designated crosswalk. All of the traffic was at a complete stop except for the oncoming pick-up driven by \_\_\_\_\_. By the time he saw the family and realized the light was red, it was too late. \_\_\_\_\_ struck the family without having the reaction time necessary to apply his brake.

\_\_\_\_\_ was not completely aware of what had taken place. To him it seemed like a dream. The sounds of sirens from the emergency vehicles let him know this dream was in fact reality. \_\_\_\_\_ stepped out of his vehicle to see the family scattered by the blow of the truck, covered in blood and lying lifeless on the pavement. The coroner came to the scene while the police were checking \_\_\_\_\_ for signs of alcohol abuse. In the background, \_\_\_\_\_ noticed the bodies of the infant daughter and the mother being covered up by the coroner and emergency personnel trying to save the father.

After being handcuffed and placed in the back of the police cruiser \_\_\_\_\_ realized that his life would never be the same and his dreams never realized. The mother and the child were taken to the Medical Examiners office where their lifeless bodies would be examined. The father was rushed to the hospital where he has spent the last 3 weeks paralyzed and having to struggle with the loss of his wife and his newborn daughter. Meanwhile \_\_\_\_\_ sat in the local correctional facility, waiting for a jury to decide his fate. This was certainly going to be a memorable Homecoming.

## Optional Scenarios & Trial Cases

### Case #1

The Defendant is charged with Driving Under the Influence (DUI); Blood Alcohol level was .20. They gave breath and blood tests. Arresting officer issued a citation for driving under the influence and speeding 55 mph in a 25-mph speed zone. This is the driver's first offense.

### Case #2

The Defendant was driving intoxicated with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of .08 after leaving his/her best friends' house; drove ½ mile to his/her home. While on the way to his/her home Defendant became ill and lost control of the car. An officer observed car swaying from one side of the street to the other. Pedestrians were walking their dog. Defendants' car jumped the curve and hit the pedestrians, injuring both of them.

### Case #3

The Defendant is charged with DUI and manslaughter in the Second Degree violating KRS 507.040. The Defendant had just left a party where they were serving alcohol. All passengers and the driver were intoxicated when they left the party. The blood test given at the hospital showed an intoxilyzer reading of .10 for the driver and .02 for the three passengers. Two of the passengers were killed on impact when the driver lost control of the car and it hit a guard rail spinning into a tree on the opposite side of the road. The other passenger suffered several injuries and stayed in the hospital for three days.

### Case #4

The Defendant was driving with Blood Alcohol level of .15 and has been driving for six months. He/she was on his/her way to a prom party at some friends home when he/she ran a stop sign while traveling at 40 mph. The Defendant swerved to miss a car and hit another vehicle head on, injuring both occupants.

### Case #5

The Defendant celebrated graduation by downing beers at a friend's party. While heading home, his/her vehicle ran into another car stopped at a red light. This passenger vehicle was pushed into the intersection where it was struck by a transport truck. It killed all four occupants of the passenger vehicle; two on impact and the two others die one week later in the hospital. BAC was .10 at the scene when officer gave him/her a breath alcohol test.

## Alcohol Fact Sheet

Alcohol is a DRUG. It is a central nervous system depressant and not a stimulant as commonly believed. It acts by moving directly into the bloodstream. All alcoholic drinks are basically the same. The following drinks contain equal amounts of alcohol.

- A 12-ounce bottle of beer
- A 5-ounce glass of wine, 12-ounce wine cooler
- A mixed drink with 1 - 1 ½ ounces of 80 proof liquor

Alcohol's effects vary according to the rate at which alcohol is consumed, the presence of food in the stomach during consumption, and the individual's weight, mood, and previous drinking experience.

- Moderate drinking may cause a person to experience flushing, dizziness, dulling of senses and impairment of coordination, reflexes, memory, and judgement.
- According to the American Medical Society, "Alcoholism is a chronic, progressive, and potentially fatal disease."
- Too much drinking can lead to malnutrition, lowered resistance to infections and the increased risk of cancers of the mouth, throat, and liver. Other dangers to the body include the possibility of irreversible damage to the brain and the central nervous system, and severe damage to the heart, lungs, pancreas, and liver.
- Approximately 30 percent of boys and 22 percent of girls classify themselves as "Drinkers" by the age of 13.
- In the United States, 4.6 million teenagers experience serious problems with alcohol.
- One-third of American adults play it safe and do NOT drink alcohol at all. About one-third have a drink from time to time.
- Despite the dangers of driving after drinking, 12 percent of adults in the United States said that they drove their cars at least once in the past year knowing in full that they had too much to drink.
- The body takes about two hours to eliminate the alcohol that has been consumed in an average drink (1/2-ounce of pure alcohol).

## Impaired Driving Fact Sheet

- Two million drinking and driving crashes occur every year.
- Someone is killed in an alcohol-related traffic crash every 30 minutes.
- In some parts of the country, during the weekends between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., one out of ten cars is driven by a drunk driver.
- The leading killer of teenagers is motor vehicle crashes. Each week, 133 teenagers die due to these crashes. Over one-third of these traffic deaths are alcohol-related.
- Every year, over 3,000 teenagers are killed in drinking/driving crashes. Another 85,000 are injured; 6,500 of them are seriously injured.
- Although teenagers comprise less than 10 percent of licensed drivers, they account for 20 percent of all fatal crashes. Drunk drivers kill their friends as well as others. Most of the teenage passenger deaths are a result of teenage drivers.
- Two out of every five people will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lifetime.
- Data indicates that drugs are detected in 10 percent to 22 percent of crash-involved drivers (drugs or drugs combined with alcohol) at the time of the crash.
- Alcohol poses the greatest hazard to highway safety. Drugs (other than alcohol) that appear to have the most potential to be serious highway safety hazards are marijuana, tranquilizers, and barbiturates.
- All 50 states have drinking and driving laws (Driving Under the Influence) with a variety of penalties. Most of these laws are based on a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 percent. This level has been established as the point of intoxication; however, drivers have been shown to be “impaired” at much lower levels.
- Kentucky established a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 percent as the point of intoxication effective October 1, 2000.

## Announcements for Judgment Day week

### **Monday:**

Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens. Over one-third of these traffic deaths are alcohol-related. This week we will make an announcement every morning giving you statistics concerning drinking and driving. Please listen carefully for these facts so that you can answer the questions on the trivia quiz sheet being passed out in your homeroom. Not only will you be learning what it means to be safe and sober, but you may also have the chance to be eligible for the Judgment Day Trivia Quiz “GRAND PRIZE” drawing on Friday. For more information, please visit our table set up in the cafeteria during lunch.

The Judgment Day facts for today are:

- 1) The leading killer of teenagers is automobile crashes.
- 2) 133 teenagers die every week in traffic crashes.

### **Tuesday:**

The Judgment Day facts for today are:

- 1) Alcohol is a depressant.
- 2) Only time will help you become sober.

\*\*\*\*Don't forget - You can't win the Judgment Day trivia grand prize if you don't enter. A few trivia quiz sheets are still available in the cafeteria during lunch today!

### **Wednesday:**

The Judgment Day facts for today are:

- 1) Someone is killed in an alcohol related car crash every 30 minutes.
- 2) The first driving ability to be affected by alcohol is judgment.
- 3) Speed is a factor in 43% of all fatal alcohol related crashes.

### **Thursday:**

The Judgment Day facts for today are:

- 1) There are 9 alcohol pedestrian deaths every day.
- 2) The best time to prevent drinking and driving is before the drinking starts.
- 3) The use of safety belts in your car can help reduce the risk of fatal or serious injury by 55%.

Please remember that you must turn in your completed trivia quiz sheets by the end of lunch today in order to be eligible for tomorrow's “Grand Prize” drawing.

### **Friday:**

There will be a special assembly today at \_\_\_ p.m.. We ask that you cooperate with the guests and be respectful. Thank you.

## Judgment Day Trivia

- 1. Someone is killed in an alcohol related car crash every \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. 50 minutes                      B. 40 minutes                      C. 30 minutes
- 2. The leading killer of teens is \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. suicide                              B. drug related                      C. auto crashes
- 3. How many teenagers die every week in traffic crashes?**  
A. 94                                      B. 133                                      C. 85
- 4. Which of the following will help you become sober?**  
A. cold shower                      B. time                                      C. coffee
- 5. The first driving ability to be affected by alcohol is \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. coordination                      B. depressant                              C. judgment
- 6. Alcohol is a \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. stimulant                              B. depressant                              C. hallucinogen
- 7. The use of safety belts in your car can help reduce the risk of fatal or serious injury?**  
A. 10%                                      B. 33%                                      C. 55%
- 8. Speed is a factor in what percentage of fatal alcohol related crashes \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. 25%                                      B. 33%                                      C. 43%
- 9. There are \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol related pedestrian deaths every day?**  
A. 6                                              B. 7                                              C. 9
- 10. The best time to prevent drinking and driving is \_\_\_\_\_?**  
A. before the drinking starts                      B. during the drinking                      C. when it's time to drive

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Answers to Trivia Questions

- 1) C
- 2) C
- 3) B
- 4) B
- 5) C
- 6) B
- 7) C
- 8) C
- 9) C
- 10) A