

Don't Do It... For Ditty

I am a current senior, attending a typical high school. My life just isn't so average though... and part of it has to do with a tragic event that occurred in my early childhood.

When I was 3 years old, my perfect life came crashing down due to a drunk driver. My father was on his way home from a long day of work... a rainy day around 3-4pm. I was so young at the time... my sister was just 9 years old.

It all happened so fast... and one man's choice to drink and drive ruined the lives of my father, my family and I. Every positive aspect about life went downhill when my father passed away... although the drunk driver escaped the head-on collision with not even a tiny bruise on his body... my father was dead.

The drunken man continued to live his life... although I know he must have felt guilty about what had happened... my life was the one that could never go back to normal... no matter how hard everyone tried... things will just never be the same.

Living almost 15 years now without my father has been hell, and I do not want any other family to have to endure the pain that a destructive decision has caused my family.

This is why, if I had to create an anti-drinking and driving campaign... I would do it in memory of my father. I would call it "Don't Do It... For Ditty". Ditty is my father's last name... my last name... the only piece of him that I will carry with me until the day I meet him again.

I feel very different about guest speakers than most in my grade. I give them the respect that they deserve and I actually want to hear what they have to say... but most teenagers could care less about what a speaker has to offer.

I feel the reason most teens do not pay attention for guest speakers is that simply, the speaker is not relating to anything going on in the student's lives. I mean... talking about history is great... but teens are more interested in what is occurring around them in the present than what happened 100 years ago.

That is why... for my campaign, I would have actual teenagers speaking. I would address only 10-12th graders in large groups at schools, because they are most likely to drink and drive.

My presentation would include some details about my father's story and the stories of others who have had their lives changed from drinking and driving. I would express how losing my father has changed my life.

Adults will be influenced by the campaign too, because when teenagers go home and tell their parents what they learned... the parents will think again about drinking and driving as well.

I would share with students how drinking and driving is so horrific that not only are teenagers putting themselves in danger... they are risking lives of others on the streets as well. I mean just because someone drinks and drives... it doesn't mean their life is the only one in danger.

I would be very realistic with the students, and share how one man's mistake has ruined my life... but also how I have learned from it. I would share details of my father's death as well as have other speakers talk about how their lives have changed. I would have mostly teenagers talking for my campaign, because teenagers are most influenced by people their own age.

I know students would be able to realize just how destructive drinking while driving can be; I know they would be respectful and silent for my presentation because in a way... it relates to them.

I would hold "Don't Do It... For Ditty" every year for 14 days throughout the month of March. The dates would be March 6 (the day my father died) through March 19th (my father's birthday). I would use March as a month to remember all the loved ones who have been lost due to driving under the influence.

My presentation would be short and simple... but really have a lasting effect on students. I would have my speakers be very casual... so that they talk to the students and interact with them... not just talk at them.

I'd advertise my campaign with posters, shirts and bracelets. My presentation would have a little bit of fun throughout it, because death is a very depressing topic. I wouldn't want to leave the audience too sad.

The goal of my presentation would be to simply just get the word out that drinking and driving is terrible... and that one drink can ruin many lives.

If just one person makes the choice to not drink and drive after sitting in on my presentation... I would change lives, and I know my father would be proud of me!

A PowerPoint presentation would guide the speakers as the talk, and at the end of the presentation, the speakers would hand out t-shirts and bracelets. Posters would be throughout schools to advertise for the week.

Also, I would make students sign a pledge to not drink and drive at the end of the presentation, because March 6 through March 19 would be known as "Don't Do It... For Ditty Week".

Don't Do It... For Ditty

ADVERTISEMENT IDEAS



Rubber cause bracelets would read "Don't Do It... For Ditty" on the top, and March 6-19 on the bottom

Example of Poster:



DON'T DO IT... FOR DITTY

I pledge and promise that I will not drink and drive, I will spread the word about drinking and driving... and I'll do it for DITTY. March 6-19

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