

## Drive Team Essay

### Safety and the Teen Driver

Just over ten years ago, my second cousin Kimmie was killed by a teen driver. The teen was not normally an irresponsible driver, but by making one poor decision, his life was changed forever. To me, this epitomizes the importance of safety to teen driving. Had that particular teen driver been a little more attentive, a little more careful, a little more safe, my cousin Kimmie might still be alive today.

The teen was driving on a country road, one he traveled often and knew a little too well. It was a country road, a road less traveled, and he was not observant of the highway ahead. He, therefore, did not see my cousin Kimmie's car cross the intersection in front of him, an intersection at which he was supposed to have stopped. Because of that one moment of carelessness, many lives were altered drastically. The teen was not seriously physically hurt, but there is no telling what that moment did to his life, and the lives of his family. My family was devastated. Kimmie was a good student, bright, and the world was her oyster. Her death was the central pivot around which everything the family did for the next few years revolved. Her death made the entire family wary of the road, but also made us a little more conscious of our driving habits.

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I never knew Kimmie particularly well, I was very young when she died, but every time I visit the family in Michigan I hear fond stories of her life. I know that if I had been the teen that had hit her, I would never be able to live with myself. That is why teen safety behind the wheel is so important. Taking safety on the road seriously is important for teens, not just for themselves, but also for everyone else on the road.