

CWSF 2012 - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Edmund Zamora

Double Trouble: The Effects of Multitasking and the Dangers of Distracted Driving

Challenge: Information

Category: Junior

Region: Bay Area

City: Oakville, ON

School: Trinity Christian School

Abstract: A study was conducted to investigate the risks associated with distracted driving. An interactive game application was developed to measure the brain's performance capabilities to multitasking. It was shown that distractions decrease the brain's reaction and performance abilities when engaging in secondary cognitive tasks. Similar results can occur when texting and driving, which can impact driver performance and produce significant risks from delayed reaction times.

Biography

My name is Edmund Zamora, a 12 year old grade 7 student from Burlington, Ontario. My favorite subjects in school are math and science. Hence my interest in becoming involved with science related issues and projects. In my spare time I study robotics and programming and one day I came up with an idea of how to develop a computer program and study people's reaction time and its effect of multitasking, particularly with drivers on the road. I became really interested in finding the effects of distraction while driving, after my father was involved in a serious accident because a teenager was texting while driving. In my project I wanted to address the serious consequences of distracted driving, educate and inform the public in general of how split second decisions can change our lives forever. As I move forward in my research, I intend to reach out to car manufacturers and research what they are doing to reduce distraction in their new vehicles. I will also like to offer some safety ideas to cell phone companies as well, as the technology is already available to block text messages and calls on cell phones while a car is in motion.

Awards

Value

Challenge Award - Information - Junior Sponsor: Intel of Canada, Ltd.	\$500
Excellence Award - Junior - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Nuclear Waste Management Organization	\$300
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 800