

“Would have” is probably the most used word in my vocabulary. I spend hours each day imagining how my life would have been and how hers would have been. I’m sure the driver that took my sisters life and every driver that has ever taken a life makes up imaginary scenarios in their head as well. Wondering what would have happened if they wouldn’t have driven nor drank that night. Although it was an accident, I was caused by someone’s irresponsible actions, and all I am left with today is just imaginary “would have scenarios”.

Driving safely is a crucial everyday task in my life. I take a lot of thought to driving safely each day due to my experience of losing a loved one on the road. I started driving at a late age because I have always taken driving very seriously. The fear to get behind the wheel faded with time and I now drive like the average person. To clarify, I drive as much as the average person, however I don’t drive the vehicle like the average person. I not only follow each rule in the book and stay alert, but I observe the way others drive. I notice right away when something is off, such as when a truck or car can’t stay inside the lane or drive straight. I’ve learned to observe these actions and over the years. The average driver would just get out of their way, but again I’m not the average driver. I am a driver that lost a sister to a drunk driver and a driver who will do what is necessary to prevent another loss whether that is offer help or report it to the authorities.

Luckily, I live in a community which takes driving very seriously and works hard to provide a safe community each day. Police officers make rounds around the community all day, patrolling our streets and preventing accidents. The university of Houston also enforces rules to make the campus safer such as fines for not stopping when they are supposed to and make all students take modules during orientation. These modules cover all the rules associated with driving on campus, but also give advice as to how to drive around the community to prevent

accidents. Although all of these actions taken by our community and school are great, I believe more actions need to be taken to make sure teens drive safely each and every day. Some of these actions can include emergency drills and training. They can provide students with a staged accident to communicate how serious accidents can become by taking the wrong actions. Training can also be very helpful providing students and all teens with information on how to help in case of an emergency to prevent greater damage.

Driving accidents have always been extremely important to me, After all they cross my mind each day along with the memory of my sister. An accident changed my life forever, an accident that was caused by teens making the wrong decisions. Small changes in our schools and communities can cause big changes influencing the decisions teens make when driving. And perhaps these changes can prevent more teens from using “would have” in their vocabulary when talking about a loved one.