

Classroom Debate

TOPIC: The driving age should be raised to 22?

Drag the arguments to the correct place.

While environmental and health benefits are important, they should not come at the cost of individual freedom and practicality. Many areas, particularly rural regions, lack adequate public transportation options, making driving a necessity for young adults. Raising the driving age could disproportionately affect those in such areas, limiting their access to education, employment, and social activities.

While it is true that many young adults rely on driving, the safety benefits of raising the driving age outweigh the inconveniences. Studies have shown that brain development continues into the early twenties, particularly in areas related to decision-making and impulse control. By allowing individuals to mature further before driving, we can reduce the likelihood of accidents caused by poor judgment.

Raising the driving age to 22 is not a practical solution and could have negative social and economic impacts. Many young adults rely on driving for their daily activities, including commuting to work, school, and other responsibilities. Restricting their ability to drive until 22 could limit their opportunities and independence. Instead, we should focus on improving driver education and training programs to ensure that young drivers are well-prepared.

In conclusion, raising the driving age to 22 is a necessary step to enhance road safety and protect young lives. The evidence clearly shows that younger drivers are at a higher risk of accidents, and allowing them more time to mature can significantly reduce this risk. While there may be some inconveniences, the long-term benefits for public safety, health, and the environment make this a worthwhile change.

Round 1: Opening Arguments: *supporting or opposing the proposition*

Pro (Student A): Raising the driving age to 22 can significantly reduce road accidents and fatalities. Research shows that younger drivers, particularly those aged 16-21, are more prone to accidents due to their lack of experience and higher likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drivers aged 16-20 are involved in fatal crashes at a rate nearly three times higher than drivers aged 21 and older.

Con (Student B):

Round 2: Rebuttals: *responses to the opposing the proposition*

Pro (Student A):

Con (Student B): Raising the driving age does not address the root causes of accidents among young drivers. Instead of imposing an age restriction, we should invest in comprehensive driver education programs that emphasize safe driving practices and defensive driving skills. Graduated driver licensing (GDL) programs, which gradually introduce driving privileges, have been proven effective in reducing accidents among young drivers.

Round 3: Further Arguments: *With the information given - supporting or opposing the proposition*

Pro (Student A): Raising the driving age to 22 can also have long-term benefits for public health and the environment. Fewer young drivers on the road can lead to reduced traffic congestion and lower emissions, contributing to cleaner air and a healthier environment. Additionally, encouraging young adults to use alternative transportation methods, such as biking or walking, can promote physical activity and overall well-being.

Con (Student B):

Round 4: Closing Rebuttals: *final responses to the opposing the proposition*

Pro (Student A):

Con (Student B): In conclusion, raising the driving age to 22 is not the most effective solution to improve road safety. Instead, we should focus on enhancing driver education and training programs, as well as implementing and enforcing graduated driver licensing systems. These measures can address the root causes of accidents among young drivers without limiting their independence and opportunities.