

## A Discussion Handout for Teenagers - 10 Questions



You'll never hear pilots announce to their passengers that they're smoking a joint before takeoff so they can relax and enjoy the flight. But if these pilots were drivers and they were in a car, would the situation be different?

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 1: into it

If you were a passenger in a commercial jet, would you be comfortable if your pilots smoked up so they could really get into flying the plane?



### Why did we ask this question?

You might think smoking pot helps you drive better because you're more focused. When you're into something, like watching a movie or playing a video game, you can forget where you are.

But when you're really aware of some things, you are less aware of others - it's the law of attention. You may not notice other things until it's too late.

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 2: play

If driving high is like playing a video game, what happens when you make a wrong move?



### Why did we ask this question?

In the game world you can learn as much by making wrong moves as you can by making right ones. In the end you'll become a better player.

When you take control of a real vehicle you can't go back to the last save point if you make a wrong move. Driving high may feel like playing a video game but it isn't.

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 3: react

If driving high slows down your reaction time, what will happen if a car suddenly swerves into your lane?



### Why did we ask this question?

Sometimes when you're driving you have to react quickly to something you don't expect. Your reaction time is the time it takes to see the problem, figure out what to do, and do it.

Smoking pot slows down your reaction time. If you drive high, your slower reaction might make a big difference when it counts.

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 4: drift

If your mind drifts when you drive high, will you be prepared for something that needs your full attention?



### Why did we ask this question?

The reason why your mind drifts when you're high is because pot disturbs your short-term memory. Losing your train-of-thought may not be that important if you're sitting on a park bench with friends, but it can be dangerous when you're behind the wheel.

If you decide to drive high and your mind drifts, you may not be paying attention when you really need to be.



## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 5: compensate

Will you always be able to compensate when you drive high?



### Why did we ask this question?

When you drive high you try to make up for the effects of pot in different ways, like slowing down or staying in one lane. In other words you compensate.

You never know what will happen when you're driving. Will compensating for the effects of pot be enough?

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 6: strength

How strong is your pot this time?



### Why did we ask this question?

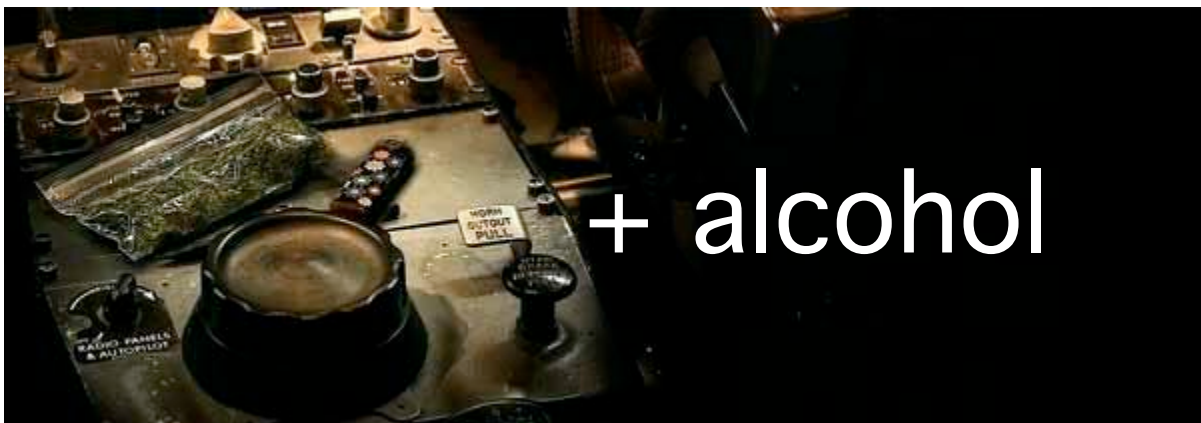
Some think pot is a lot stronger than it used to be. It's hard to prove because pot isn't regulated like alcohol or prescription drugs.

Pot strength can vary depending on where it comes from, how it was grown, and what strain it is. The strength of the pot can make a big difference on your driving, especially if you only use it occasionally.

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 7: mixing

If you mix pot and alcohol, what do you get?



### Why did we ask this question?

When you use alcohol and pot together the effect is different than when you use them separately. It is called synergy and the results are unpredictable.

Mixing pot and alcohol can have a big effect on your driving and it can put you and your passengers at serious risk.



## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 8: off-road

Is it safe to drive high off-road?



### Why did we ask this question?

Canada's a big country with lots of off-road trails. Maybe you ride an ATV, a dirt bike or a snowmobile on them. In every season, off-road driving has unique challenges.

If you get high and hit the trails, you may not be able to meet the challenges when you really need to.

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 9: freedom

If you think your driver is high, can you choose not to get in?



### Why did we ask this question?

Having a friend with a car can make a big difference in your life. It gives you the freedom to go to more places and do more things.

If you choose not to get into a vehicle because you think your driver is high, you have the right to make that decision. You have the freedom to choose.

## The Pot and Driving Campaign

### Question 10: friendship

If your friends drive high, do you have to?



### Why did we ask this question?

Friends often share interests, opinions and pastimes. That's usually why they're friends. So what happens if your friends drive high and you don't want to?

If you decide not to drive high your friends might follow your example. They might not. Either way, you can still be friends.