

Debate Topic: Driving Age

Please read the following information, and fill out the short answer spaces with complete sentences.

In the United States, the voting age is 18; the drinking age is 21. To join the military, a young man or woman must be 18. Most states don't allow individuals to rent cars until they are 25. In the array of age-related privileges, however, the first to arrive is the ability to get a driver's license; in some states, teenagers can take a written and road test at the tender age of 15. Why are we so quick to allow children to move tons of machinery around when we don't trust them to help us pick our elected officials? Cars can be deadly when used improperly! Citing the higher incidence of accidents among teenage drivers, many argue that the United States should adopt a nationwide standard, higher driving age. For kids yearning for the freedom of the open road, it would be a real blow to lose this first rite of passage into adulthood.

Motion: Increase the driving age.

Pro Argument #1: *The driving age should be raised to match the age of legal maturity.* **Give examples to help prove this argument.**

Con Argument #1: The act of one acting mature is not always dependent on age.

Pro Argument #2: *Those who learn to drive then they are older appreciate the risks of driving and will be better drivers.*

Con Argument #2: This statement is too general and does not apply in all cases.

Pro Argument #3: *Accident rates are highest among teen drivers*

Con Argument #3: The accident rate may be related to inexperience rather than age.

Pro Counter Argument: *The solution is not changing the driving age, but with mass transportation.*

Con Counter Argument: Teenagers need to be able to drive to function in a modern society.

You should have information for both sides on your paper for each argument. Please answer the following questions using complete sentences.

What is your personally stance regarding the driving age?

Which side is the easiest to argue?
