

PARADE classroom®

TEACHER'S GUIDE

To download, visit www.paradeclassroom.com

April 3–9, 2005

BRAND X PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES (MODEL POSED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY)



Are your students safe behind the wheel?

► **This Week's Focus:**

Is 16 Too Young to Drive?

In this week's guide, we focus on the driving age. Teens are statistically the most dangerous drivers on the road. A recent NIH study suggests that this is because parts of teens' brains are not fully mature. Should the driving age be raised? Ask your students to decide. Another lesson plan considers U.S. high schools. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates recently pronounced them obsolete. Is he right? And if so, what should be done? Finally we look at PARADE's All-America High School Boys Basketball team, and consider a potential new NBA rule that would set a minimum age of 20 for its draft.

Everyday Newspaper Activity

Activity #30: Sports Coverage. Ask students to review the sports pages of your paper. How much coverage is local? How much is national? Which types of sports receive the most coverage? Why? Do men's sports receive more or less coverage than women's? What changes, if any, would students like to see made? Would the sports pages look different in another city?

Coming Up Next Week

- Celebrating National Youth Service Day
- Coping with College Rejection
- Where Tax Money Goes

► **In the News: Is 16 Too Young to Drive?; Are U.S. High Schools Obsolete? p.2**

► **In PARADE: All-America High School Boys Basketball Players p.3**

► **Skills Sheets: Summarize That p.4; Jobs—By the Numbers p.5**

Is 16 Too Young To Drive?

Curriculum links: Civics, psychology, science, current events, family and consumer science

Briefing: Teen drivers are the most dangerous on the road. They have a far higher rate of accidents and traffic deaths than older drivers. And now, scientists at the National Institutes of Health think that they know why. Their studies show that the part of the brain that weighs risks and makes judgments isn't fully mature until age 25. Of course, this varies from person to person. But overall, a 16-year-old's brain is less developed than the brain of someone a bit older. This discovery is fueling a movement to raise the minimum driving age. In fact, a Gallup poll shows that 61% of Americans think that 16-year-olds are too young to drive. Some 53% of those polled thought that a minimum driving age of 18 would be better. Raising the driving age isn't the only approach being considered, however. Most states already have graduated licensing, which places restrictions on young people who drive. For example, in many states, teens can't drive at night or drive with other teens in the car, until they have driven for a certain number of hours under parental supervision. Virginia almost passed a law that prohibits drivers under 18 from using a cell phone in a car. And Maryland is considering requiring more training and fewer passengers for young drivers.

Newspaper activity: From now until the end of the school year, track stories about traffic accidents in the paper. How old are the drivers? Do teen drivers seem to be involved in a disproportionate number of accidents? Are 16-year-olds in more accidents than older teens?

Resources: Books: Phil Berardelli's *Safe Young Drivers* (Nautilus, 2000) and the American Automobile Association's *Responsible Driving* (Glencoe, 1999). Web sites: Learn more about the NIH study from newspaper accounts.*

Classroom Debates

- **Is 16 too young to drive?** What could be done to make 16-year-olds safer drivers? Would forbidding young drivers to use cell phones or to drive after dark be helpful? Would the roads be safer if drivers could not be licensed until they were 18 or older? What would be the best minimum age to license drivers? If the majority of Americans believe that 16 is too young to drive, why haven't legislatures raised the driving age? How would raising the driving age affect teenagers? Their parents? Employers? Road safety? What would be the pros and cons?

Are U.S. High Schools Obsolete?

Curriculum links: Current events, business & economics, college & careers, family & consumer science

Briefing: Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates recently told American governors that U.S. high schools are obsolete. "Our high schools were designed 50 years ago to meet the needs of another age," Gates says. He thinks schools need to be radically restructured if U.S. students are to compete in the global economy. Out of the top 20 developed nations, the U.S. ranks 16th in the percentage of students completing high school. It ranks 14th in college graduation rates. U.S. schools still operate under the idea "that you could train an adequate workforce by sending only a small fraction of students to college . . . The others, most of whom are low-income and minority students, are tracked into courses that won't ever get them ready" for college, work and citizenship. "Wealthy white kids are taught Algebra II, while low-income minority kids are taught how to balance a checkbook," he says. Today, most jobs that pay enough to support a family require some post-secondary education. Yet only half of all students who enter high school enroll in a post secondary institution. He advocates giving all students a rigorous curriculum that prepares them for college and work, surrounding them with adults who push them to the limits of their abilities, and relating courses to students' lives.

Newspaper activity: Ask students to look through the "help wanted" section of the paper. What jobs are available for high school graduates? College graduates? Which seem more interesting or pay more? What jobs are available for high school drop-outs?

Resources: Web sites: Read Bill Gates' comments and analysis of them.*

Classroom Debates

- **Are U.S. high schools obsolete?** Should they become more rigorous? Should all students be required to take classes that prepare them for college? What if your classes got harder or added new requirements? When some schools became more rigorous, parents and students complained. Should they? How would you change American schools?

*Visit www.paradeclassroom.com/links for links to all mentioned Web sites.

All-America Boys Basketball Team

Curriculum links: Current events, physical education, sports, critical thinking

Briefing: In this week's issue, PARADE announces its 49th annual All-America High School Boys Basketball Team. The team includes 40 boys from 20 states. Illinois leads with five players. One high school, Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Va., has three players on the team. This year, PARADE has chosen not one Player of the Year, but two Co-Players. Monta Ellis is a 6-foot-4 senior guard from Lanier High School in Jackson, Miss. Greg Oden is a 7-foot junior center from Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis. Rail-thin Monta Ellis has been a star since his freshman year, when he led his team to the state championship. In four years, he has scored more than 4000 career points and averages 39 points per game. He also averages 9 rebounds and 7 assists per game. Greg Oden averages 21 points, 10 rebounds, and 3.5 blocked shots a game, shooting 66% from the floor. Analysts see Oden as a first-round draft pick for the NBA in 2006—except for one thing. Oden, who has said he wants to go to college first, may not even be eligible for the draft at that point. The NBA is seriously considering a minimum draft age of 20, starting next year.

Newspaper activity: Should sports figures be viewed as role models? Ask students to look through the paper to find adult sports figures who are good role models. What is admirable about these people? What qualities can students emulate? Are there other sports figures who are poor role models?

Resources: Web sites: Read more about Greg Oden, Monta Ellis and possible NBA draft restrictions.*

Classroom Debates

- **The NBA is considering instituting a minimum age of 20 for new players.** Is this a good idea? How would it affect the players? The NBA? College basketball teams? What would be the pros and cons? Why has the NBA resisted the change in the past? Another possibility, some observers say, would be a plan that allowed the NBA to draft graduating high school players. But once they began college, they would have to wait three years or until they turned 21 to become eligible again. What would be the effects of this plan? What are the pros and cons of skipping college to go directly to the NBA? Are players who jump to the NBA as likely to be as successful as those who attend college? What do they gain? What do they lose?

ASK MARILYN

Brainteaser

Question: Four words in the English language end with -dous. Three of them are **horrendous**, **stupendous** and **tremendous**. What is the third?

Answer: Hazardous. Write to Marilyn if you find any others.

Interact: Ask students to write their funniest one-line answer to this question: "Albert Einstein is known for his theories of relativity, which changed modern thought about space and time. But what if he had math anxiety?" Ask students to send their answers to Ask Marilyn, 711 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. Or e-mail marilyn@parade.com.

FRESH VOICES

Animal Tales

For class discussion or writing assignment: Brittany, 12, got a new puppy named Cassy. When her family left the puppy home alone one day, she chewed through the water supply line and flooded the house! Do you have any funny or interesting stories about animals? What animal was it? What happened?

Interact: Send students' stories to Fresh Voices, Box 5103, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5103. Or send e-mail to freshvoices@parade.com. Students whose letters are published in PARADE will receive Fresh Voices T-shirts.

Answer Key:

Summarize That! p. 4:
Answers will vary.

Jobs: By the Numbers
p. 5: 1. 9.2%; 2.8%;
2. \$22,400; \$56,600;
3. The more education,
the higher the salary. 4.
The less education, the
greater likelihood of
unemployment.
5. 31,000; 49%;
6. Medical assistants;
215,000; 7. Home
health aides; no;
8. Medical and
computer; 9. Answers
will vary.

Summarize That!

Many newspapers include summaries of their news articles. Often tucked on page 2 of the paper, these summaries give the main points of the most important stories. That way, people who don't have time to read everything can get an idea of the news and can decide which stories they want to read in their entirety.

Summarizing, or briefly conveying the substance of something, whether an article, novel or conversation, is an important skill in everyday life. To practice, choose three stories in the newspaper—one national, one local and one of your choice—and summarize each in just one paragraph below. Be sure to include the most important points, including who, what, where, when, why and how. After you've written your summaries, compare them to the ones in the newspaper, if available.

News Summary # 1 (National)

News Summary # 2 (Local)

News Summary # 3 (Your choice)

Jobs: By the Numbers

Someday you want to have a great, well-paying job that will help you live the life you want. So how is the job market changing? How much education should you get? What fields will need the most employees? How much do they pay? We've done some of the research for you. Take a look and then answer the questions below each chart.

Unemployment Rate 2002 (%)	Education Attained	Median Earnings
2.8	Master's degree	\$56,600
3.1	Bachelor's degree	\$47,000
4.0	Associate degree	\$36,400
4.8	Some college, no degree	\$34,300
5.3	High school graduate	\$29,200
9.2	High school drop-out	\$22,400

Both charts/Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Employment		Change	
	2002	2012	Number	%
Medical assistants	365	579	215	59
Network systems & data analysts	86	292	106	57
Physician assistants	63	94	31	49
Social & human service. assts.	305	454	149	49
Home health aides	580	859	279	48
Medical record techs	147	216	69	47
Physical therapy aides	37	54	17	46
Software engineers, applications	394	573	179	46
Software engineers, systems	281	409	128	45
Physical therapist assistants	50	73	22	45

1. In the year 2002, what was the unemployment rate for people who did not have high school diplomas? _____
What was it for people with master's degrees? _____

2. In 2002, what was the median salary for people who did not have a high school diploma? _____ What was it for people with master's degrees? _____

3. How are education and salary related?

4. How are education and unemployment related?

5. How many jobs will be created for physician assistants between 2002 and 2012? _____ What percentage increase is that? _____

6. What job will have the highest percentage increase between 2002 and 2012? _____ How many actual jobs will be created? _____

7. Which occupation listed here will have the largest number of people working in it in 2012? _____
Do these jobs generally pay well? _____

8. Most of these jobs are concentrated in two general fields. What are they?

9. Do any of these jobs appeal to you? _____ If so, which ones?

Don't worry if your dream career isn't on the list. You can still pursue it! This is just a general chart on the job market. Many other possibilities exist!