

Middle School (grades 6 through 8) *Writing Prompt/Case Study/Social Studies*

Ask students to research or provide them with a hard copy or link to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services' press release¹ regarding the Child Passenger Protection Act, which is also known as Leandra's Law. This law was named in memory of Leandra Rosado, an 11-year-old girl who was killed in a drunk driving accident. Leandra's Law makes it an automatic felony on the first offense to drive drunk with a person under the age of 16 in the vehicle and will require offenders to install an ignition interlock device in their vehicles.

Students must display clear knowledge of the law and express valid arguments for their conclusions. Use prompts like these to motivate your students to write a compelling essay on the topic:

- Should first time offenders be automatically charged with a felony? Why or why not?
- What could lawmakers do to help make Leandra's Law more well-known to prevent drunk driving?
- If you could change Leandra's Law, what would the penalties for drunk drivers be?
- Do you agree with the age limit (16 years old) applied to offenders of Leandra's Law? Why or why not?

Attention Teachers!

Don't forget to share your students' essays with the Law Offices of William Mattar. Send us PDFs from your classroom to contests@williammattar.com, and we'll let you know if your students' essays make it to the Cube!

1) http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/pio/press_releases/2010-7-20_pressrelease.html