



OII LESSON PLAN

HOW MUCH DOES THAT TRAFFIC TICKET REALLY COST

Overview

Many students do not fully understand the total cost of not obeying traffic laws. After going to court for a traffic offense and paying a fine they fully realize the cost of the fine imposed and associated court cost since these are paid directly. However, there may also be other indirect costs associated with being convicted of a traffic violation. The purpose of this lesson is to highlight some of the indirect costs so that students understand the full impact of the offense for which they were charged.

NOTE: Figures supplied are most current available as of April 2004. Figures may vary based on court fees and fines.

Objective

Educate students on the total cost (both direct and indirect) of being convicted of a traffic violation.

- **Grade level:** 9 – 12
- **Time required:** 50 – 60 minutes
- **Materials needed:**
 - Table 1 – Premium changes resulting from traffic violations and at-fault accidents
 - Table 2 – Court imposed sanctions for various traffic violations
 - Table 3 – Vehicle administrative fees
 - Table 4 – Mandatory education programs
 - Activity 1 – 16 yr-old Male
 - Activity 2 – 19 yr-old Male
 - Activity 3 – 19 yr-old Female



Representing Ohio's property/casualty insurance industry

Opening

Discuss how and why insurance companies charge higher rates for drivers based on driving records.

Development

Provide each student a copy of table 1 "Premium Changes Resulting from Traffic Violations and At-Fault Accidents," table 2 "Court Imposed Sanctions for Various Traffic Violations," table 3 "Vehicles Administrative Fees," and table 4 "Mandatory Education Programs." Teachers may require completion of all the following activities or select those they feel most appropriate.

- Activity one
- Activity two
- Activity three

Assessment

Assess student understanding by requiring students to provide answers to the activities posed above. Also have them provide a short essay response as to why they feel insurance companies find it necessary to increase rates for traffic offenders.

**Classroom
Group Debate**

All things being equal, why do young males pay higher automobile insurance premiums than females?

Activity One**SCENARIO**

Greg, age 16, drives a 1995 Nissan Maxima to school and to his job after school. He's a good driver and hasn't had any crashes or traffic violations—so far.

On the way home from work, he is following a Honda Odyssey minivan—a bit too closely. The van stops at a yellow light, and Greg can't stop in time and hits the minivan. The law enforcement official called to the scene evaluates the situation and determines Greg to be at-fault. Although damage was minor to both vehicles, Greg was cited on two counts: for not maintaining assured clear distance, plus he admits he wasn't wearing a safety belt at the time of the crash (which was obvious by the cracked windshield and blood on his forehead).

QUESTIONS

1. What are the maximum amounts of fines that may be imposed as a result of this crash?
_____.
2. How many traffic violation points may be assessed? _____
3. What are the first year costs of this minor crash? _____
4. How much can he expect his insurance premiums to increase for the following periods?
 - a. 0-12 months _____
 - b. 13 – 24 months _____
 - c. 25 – 36 months _____
 - d. over the entire 3-year surcharge period _____.

Activity Two

SCENARIO

Scott, who's 19 and anxious to start college this fall, already was involved in a crash last year. He received one minor traffic violation that placed two points on his driving record.

He received a car from his parents for graduation — a 1998 Mitsubishi Eclipse — and it happens...he gets clocked by police radar going 90 in a 55 mph speed zone while drag racing a buddy on the interstate. And it doesn't stop there...he's also cited for having too heavy tint on the windows and a loud muffler (vroom, vroom).

QUESTIONS

1. How many different fines and their amounts may be imposed? (List each)

2. How many traffic points may be assessed? _____

3. What will happen to his driver's license since this plus the previous incident will put him at or over 12 points?

4. What other fee(s) must be paid prior to the reinstatement of the driver's license?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

5. What are the total "out of pocket" costs associated with this incident over the 3-year surcharge period assuming no further incidents?

6. How much will his annual insurance premium increase as a result of these violations?
 - a. 0 – 12 months _____
 - b. 13 – 24 months _____
 - c. 25 – 36 months _____
 - d. total increase over the 3-year surcharge period _____

Activity Three**SCENARIO**

Kelly's a great driver — she's had no violations since she was licensed 3 years ago at age 16. She takes good care of the 2001 Honda Civic her parents purchased so she could drive to work.

One night after she's met friends for dinner, she's talking on her cell phone informing her parents that she might be a little late for her curfew. She doesn't realize that the light has turned red and she barrels through a busy intersection striking an oncoming car.

Although there were no major injuries, law enforcement at the scene determine Kelly was at-fault, plus they suspect alcohol played a factor in the crash as her friend Sara — who was in the car with Kelly — admits to drinking earlier that night. Kelly agrees to a test and blows a .05% BAC.

QUESTIONS

1. How many different fines and their amounts may be imposed? (List each)

2. How many traffic points may be assessed? _____
3. What administrative fee is appropriate? _____
4. What are the total "out of pocket" costs associated with this incident over the 3-year surcharge period assuming no further incidents?
5. How much will his annual insurance premium increase as a result of these violations?
 - a. 0 – 12 months _____
 - b. 13 – 24 months _____
 - c. 25 – 36 months _____
 - d. total increase over the 3-year surcharge period _____

Activity**ANSWER RESOURCES — CLASSROOM GROUP DEBATE**

All things being equal, why do youthful males pay higher automobile insurance premiums than females?

- Accident rate is higher. See OHIO INSURANCE FACTS, Chapter 2, Ohio Crashes by Age & Gender statistics.
- Available online at http://www.ohioinsurance.org/factbook/2003-04/chapter2/chapter2_g.shtml.

ANSWER KEY – ACTIVITY 1

- 1. What are the maximum amounts of fines that may be imposed as a result of this incident?**
 - a. No seat belt: \$ 80.00
 - b. Assured clear distance: \$ 95.00
- 2. How many traffic violation points may be assessed?**
2 for Assured clear distance.
- 3. What are the first year costs of this minor accident?**
 - a. Direct costs: \$ 175 – Fines
 - b. Indirect costs: \$ 475 – Increased first year insurance premium
- 4. How much can he expect his insurance premiums to increase for the following periods?**
 - a. 0-12 months $2,995.70 - 2,520.20 = \$ 475.50$
 - b. 13 – 24 months $2,909.80 - 2,520.20 = \$ 389.60$
 - c. 25 – 36 months $2,824.40 - 2,520.20 = \$ 304.20$
 - d. over the entire 3-year surcharge period = **\$ 1,169.30**

ANSWER KEY – ACTIVITY 2

- 1. How many different fines and their amounts may be imposed? (list each)**
 - a. Drag racing: \$ 1,000.00
 - b. Speed: \$ 140.00
 - c. Tinted windows \$ 95.00
 - d. Excess noise \$ 95.00
- 2. How many traffic points may be assessed?**
6 for drag racing, 4 for speed = 10 pts.
- 3. What will happen to his driver's license since this plus the previous incident will put him at or over 12 points?**
Loss of drivers license.
- 4. What other fee(s) must be paid prior to the reinstatement of the driver's license?**
 - a. License reinstatement \$ 425.00
 - b. Remedial driving course \$ 85.00

Total \$ 510.00

Activity

5. **What are the total “out of pocket” costs associated with this incident over the 3-year surcharge period assuming no further incidents?**
- Increased insurance premium \$ 1,362.80
 - Fines (1,000 + 140 + 95 + 95) \$ 1,330.00
 - Reinstatement fee \$ 425.00
 - Remedial driving course \$ 85.00
- Total \$ 3,202.80
6. **How much will his annual insurance premium increase as a result of these violations?**
- 0-12 months $2,747 - 2,236.40 = \$ 510.60$
 - 13 – 24 months $2,710 - 2,236.40 = \$ 473.60$
 - 25 – 36 months $2,615 - 2,236.40 = \$ 378.60$
 - over the entire 3-year surcharge period = \$ 1,362.80

ANSWER KEY – ACTIVITY 3

1. **How many different fines and their amounts may be imposed? (list each)**
- Red light \$ 95
 - OVI \$ 1,000
 - Operating a vehicle after underage alcohol consumption \$750
2. **How many traffic points may be assessed?**
- 2 for Red light
 - 4 for operating a vehicle after underage alcohol consumption
 - 6 for OVI.
3. **What administrative fee is appropriate?**
- \$ 30 (See note C, Table 3)
 - \$ 85 Remedial driving course
 - \$ 100 Immobilization fee
4. **What are the total “out of pocket” costs associated with this incident over the 3-year surcharge period assuming no further incidents?**
- Increased insurance premium \$ 2,324.16
 - Red light \$ 95.00
 - OVI \$ 1,000.00
 - Operating a vehicle after underage alcohol consumption \$ 750.00
 - Administrative fees \$ 215.00
- Total \$ 4,384.16
5. **How much will her annual insurance premium increase as a result of these violations?**
- 0-12 months $\$ 2,550.60 - 1,672.68 = \$ 877.92$
 - 13 – 24 months $\$ 2,460.70 - 1,672.68 = \$ 788.02$
 - 25 – 36 months $\$ 2,330.90 - 1,672.68 = \$ 658.22$
 - over the entire 3-year surcharge period = \$ 2,324.16

Table 1

Premium changes resulting from traffic violations and at-fault accidents

Driving Record	Age - Gender	Annual Premium Amount*				Annual Difference from "No Accidents or Violations"				Total Dollar Difference over 3-year Surcharge Period
		Months Since Most Recent Occurrence				Months Since Most Recent Occurrence				
		0-12	13-24	25-36	NA	0-12	13-24	25-36	NA	
No Accidents or Violations	16 Male	\$ 2,520.20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
One Minor Violation	16 Male	\$ 2,691.00	\$ 2,652.00	\$ 2,613.00	\$ 170.80	\$ 131.80	\$ 92.80	\$ 92.80	\$ 395.40	
Two Minor Violations	16 Male	\$ 2,824.40	\$ 2,784.00	\$ 2,737.60	\$ 304.20	\$ 263.80	\$ 217.40	\$ 217.40	\$ 785.40	
One Major Violation	16 Male	\$ 2,995.20	\$ 2,909.80	\$ 2,824.40	\$ 475.00	\$ 389.60	\$ 304.20	\$ 304.20	\$ 1,168.80	
One At-Fault Accident	16 Male	\$ 2,824.40	\$ 2,784.00	\$ 2,737.60	\$ 304.20	\$ 263.80	\$ 217.40	\$ 217.40	\$ 785.40	
One At-Fault Accident & One Minor Violation	16 Male	\$ 2,995.20	\$ 2,909.80	\$ 2,824.40	\$ 475.00	\$ 389.60	\$ 304.20	\$ 304.20	\$ 1,168.80	
One At-Fault Accident & One Major Violation	16 Male	\$ 3,386.10	\$ 3,284.40	\$ 3,126.50	\$ 865.90	\$ 764.20	\$ 606.30	\$ 606.30	\$ 2,236.40	
No Accidents or Violations	19 Male	\$ 2,236.20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
One Minor Violation	19 Male	\$ 2,407.40	\$ 2,368.00	\$ 2,329.00	\$ 171.20	\$ 131.80	\$ 92.80	\$ 92.80	\$ 395.80	
Two Minor Violations	19 Male	\$ 2,547.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,453.40	\$ 310.80	\$ 263.80	\$ 217.20	\$ 217.20	\$ 791.80	
One Major Violation	19 Male	\$ 2,747.00	\$ 2,710.00	\$ 2,615.00	\$ 510.80	\$ 473.80	\$ 378.80	\$ 378.80	\$ 1,363.40	
One At-Fault Accident	19 Male	\$ 2,547.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,453.40	\$ 310.80	\$ 263.80	\$ 217.20	\$ 217.20	\$ 791.80	
One At-Fault Accident & One Minor Violation	19 Male	\$ 2,718.00	\$ 2,632.20	\$ 2,547.00	\$ 481.80	\$ 396.00	\$ 310.80	\$ 310.80	\$ 1,188.60	
One At-Fault Accident & One Major Violation	19 Male	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,020.00	\$ 2,930.00	\$ 883.80	\$ 783.80	\$ 693.80	\$ 693.80	\$ 2,361.40	
No Accidents or Violations	16 Female	\$ 1,885.11	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
One Minor Violation	16 Female	\$ 2,057.32	\$ 2,017.93	\$ 1,978.36	\$ 172.21	\$ 132.82	\$ 93.25	\$ 93.25	\$ 398.28	
Two Minor Violations	16 Female	\$ 2,200.03	\$ 2,152.58	\$ 2,104.95	\$ 314.92	\$ 267.47	\$ 219.84	\$ 219.84	\$ 802.23	
One Major Violation	16 Female	\$ 2,374.25	\$ 2,310.10	\$ 2,240.30	\$ 489.14	\$ 424.99	\$ 355.19	\$ 355.19	\$ 1,269.32	
One At-Fault Accident	16 Female	\$ 2,200.03	\$ 2,152.58	\$ 2,104.95	\$ 314.92	\$ 267.47	\$ 219.84	\$ 219.84	\$ 802.23	
One At-Fault Accident & One Minor Violation	16 Female	\$ 2,374.25	\$ 2,287.05	\$ 2,176.39	\$ 489.14	\$ 401.94	\$ 291.29	\$ 291.29	\$ 1,182.37	
One At-Fault Accident & One Major Violation	16 Female	\$ 2,758.60	\$ 2,650.30	\$ 2,520.30	\$ 873.49	\$ 765.19	\$ 635.19	\$ 635.19	\$ 2,273.87	
No Accidents or Violations	19 Female	\$ 1,672.68	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
One Minor Violation	19 Female	\$ 1,841.40	\$ 1,802.94	\$ 1,764.66	\$ 168.72	\$ 130.26	\$ 91.98	\$ 91.98	\$ 390.96	
Two Minor Violations	19 Female	\$ 1,978.22	\$ 1,933.20	\$ 1,887.12	\$ 305.54	\$ 260.53	\$ 214.45	\$ 214.45	\$ 780.52	
One Major Violation	19 Female	\$ 2,078.20	\$ 2,008.08	\$ 1,952.30	\$ 405.52	\$ 335.40	\$ 279.62	\$ 279.62	\$ 1,020.54	
One At-Fault Accident	19 Female	\$ 1,978.22	\$ 1,933.20	\$ 1,887.12	\$ 305.54	\$ 260.53	\$ 214.45	\$ 214.45	\$ 780.52	
One At-Fault Accident & One Minor Violation	19 Female	\$ 2,146.76	\$ 2,062.58	\$ 1,956.24	\$ 474.08	\$ 389.90	\$ 283.56	\$ 283.56	\$ 1,147.54	
One At-Fault Accident & One Major Violation	19 Female	\$ 2,550.60	\$ 2,460.70	\$ 2,330.90	\$ 877.92	\$ 788.02	\$ 658.22	\$ 658.22	\$ 2,324.16	

Note: The above rate chart was compiled from information provided by several insurance companies doing business in Ohio. Not all companies charge the same rates, and rates vary between rural and city locations. Therefore, the above represents an average of rates provided by the participating insurance companies.

*Example assumes:
 2000 Honda Accord LX
 \$250 Comprehensive Deductible
 \$500 Collision Deductible
 \$25,000 per person/\$50,000 per incident Bodily Injury Limit
 Good Student Discount Applied

Table 2

**Possible Court Imposed Sanctions for Various Traffic Violations
Fines and Points Assessed**

Offense – Felonies	Fine \$	Points Assessed
Homicide by vehicle	\$1000 *	6
Under the influence of alcohol or drug	\$1000 *	6
Failure to disclose identity at scene of a crash	\$1000 *	6
Willingly fleeing or eluding a law enforcement officer	\$1000 *	6
Racing	\$1000 *	6
Operating a vehicle without consent of the owner	\$1000 *	6
Operating a vehicle while license is under suspension	\$1000 *	6
Using a vehicle in the commission of a felony	\$1000 *	6
Willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons	\$750 *	4
All moving violations except those pertaining to size limits and some speed offenses	\$250 *	2
Operating a vehicle in violation of restriction imposed by BMV	\$250 *	2
Speed Limit Below 55 mph	1 st **	1 st **
6 -29 mph over	\$85	2
30 mph and more over	\$95	4
Speed Limit Above 55 mph		
11 – 29 mph over	\$115	2
30 mph and more over	\$140	4
Speed (School Zone)		
1-10 miles over	\$100	2
11-15 miles over	\$115	4
16-20 miles over	\$125	6
Non-Moving Violations		
No Helmet or Face Shield	\$95	
Muffler/Excess Noise	\$95	
Obstructing View	\$95	
Tinted Windows	\$95	
Failure to Display License Plates	\$95	
Failure to File Registration	\$95	
Unsafe Vehicle	\$95	
Seat Belt		
Driver	\$80	
Passenger	\$65	
Child Restraint	\$130	
Moving Violations	Fine \$	Points Assessed
Assured Clear Distance	\$95	2
Slow Speed	\$95	2
Improper Turn	\$95	2
Turn Signals	\$95	2
Headlight Violations	\$95	2
Red Light/Stop Sign	\$95	2
Prohibited or U-Turn	\$95	2
Improper Lane Use	\$95	2
Following Too Close	\$95	2
Improper Passing	\$95	2
Left of Center	\$95	2
One Way Streets	\$95	2
Failure to Yield to Public Safety Vehicle	\$125	2

Note: Above fines and traffic points are general guidelines only, municipalities may establish their own schedule which must be publicly posted. Judges have the final jurisdiction as to the actual fine and number of points issued.

* = could also include court sanctioned jail time.

** Represents the first offense, subsequent violations may result in additional points and increased fines.

Table 3

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Administrative Fees (These fees are in addition to any court fines)

License Suspension Reinstatement Fee ¹	\$425
Immobilization Fee ²	\$100
Reinstatement Fee ³	\$30

¹ This fee is mandatory for: blood alcohol concentration of .08% or above or refusal to test prior to the reinstatement of your driving privileges.

² This fee results from the court ordering the immobilization of your vehicle for a number of reasons. At the end of the court ordered period this fee must be paid. Failure to pay the fee may result in the forfeiture of the vehicle.

³ This fee is due if:

- a) The court imposes a suspension of driving privileges of 90 days or more
- b) Driver is convicted of committing two or more moving violations before the age of 18
- c) Found guilty of driving with a prohibited Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .02% to .07%
- d) Found guilty of driving with a .08% or above BAC (this is in addition to the license suspension reinstatement fee).

Table 4

Other Costs Associated with Driving Privileges
Mandatory Education Program

Remedial Driving Course ⁴	\$85
Juvenile Driver Improvement Program ⁵	\$85

⁴ Mandatory prior to license reinstatement if driver accumulates 12 or more points within two years.

⁵ Mandatory prior to license reinstatement for two moving violations prior to age 18.