

**Think About It ...**



**Prom & Graduation  
Season**

Organizing an Assembly

[www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org)



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*This booklet provides your chapter with some helpful guidelines for organizing a program or assembly. Follow this index to find out about the tools included in this booklet and how to put them to work for your chapter.*

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## Think About It ... Prom and Graduation Season

### How to Organize a School Program or Assembly

In this booklet we offer suggestions for your SADD chapter to organize an assembly or program that can involve your entire school or community. The weeks prior to prom and graduation season are a perfect time to dedicate an event to talking about issues of underage drinking, other drug use, and impaired driving. There are many videos and DVDs available that offer valuable information about these topics. Listed below are suggested videos and DVDs that can be used by your chapter for organizing an assembly or program, but we're asking you to take it a step further! Rather than just showing the video or DVD, assemble a panel of adult professionals from your community who are willing to be a part of your presentation. This panel of professionals can respond to the situations presented in your program and conduct a question and answer session with the audience. Once you pick a video or DVD, **screen it** and then decide which adult professionals to invite to speak as a part of your panel. We can't emphasize enough that you should screen your video or DVD selection in advance of showing it to your audience. You should also meet with and involve administrators at your school in the screening in order to get permission to host this event. Because of the graphic nature of some of the videos or DVDs, we suggest that you also discuss this event with your school nurse or other medical personnel to enlist the participation of one of these professionals the day of the event (students in the audience may become disturbed or sickened by some of the scenes). Make sure to offer to share the video with your panelists in advance of the assembly. We've also included as another option a role-play script that can be used in place of showing a video or DVD. You'll find the sample skit script in the back of this booklet.

# STEP 1: Choosing Your Presentation

## Video/DVD Suggestions

### **“Alcohol: True Stories” – hosted by Matt Damon**

In this 20-minute video from Family Health Productions, Matt Damon tells the stories of youth affected by alcohol. Jeanne Blake, president of Family Health Productions and the producer, says, “We explore the reasons young people drink and offer compelling reasons to wait. And host Matt Damon invites young people to think carefully about the experiences of those profiled and reflect on their own choices.”

The package includes the video, a discussion guide, a classroom poster, a postcard, and a bookmark plus *Words Can Work*, by Jeanne Blake, a valuable 44-page booklet for parents with common, real-life situations about underage drinking. Leading mental health experts weigh in with practical suggestions, including words that parents can use to reach their teenage children and make a lifesaving difference.

**TO ORDER** this package or to receive more information, contact SADD toll-free at 1-877-SADD-INC, ext. 225. *The cost of the video package is \$125.00, which includes shipping.*

### **“Dying High: Teens in the ER”**

This hard-hitting video gives viewers a chance to see what goes on inside the nation’s emergency rooms as doctors treat teens for common injuries: drug overdoses, alcohol poisoning, car wreck traumas, and more. “Dying High” offers a glimpse into the nightmarish reality of what happens when young people take risks with their health, their safety, and even their lives. New federal data indicates a 20% increase in drug-related ER visits for teens under the age of 17. The goal of this high-powered video is to remind teens that dangerous risk-taking behaviors can lead to serious injury and death.

**TO ORDER** the video or to receive more information, contact Human Relations Media toll-free at 800-431-2050. *The “Dying High: Teens in the ER” video or DVD is available from Human Relations Media for a discounted rate of \$99.95.*

### **“Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol”**

To reduce the high incidence of teen crashes nationwide, the Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drunk Driving (RADD) Coalition and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), both members of the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), have joined forces with private and public partners to promote a campaign aimed at fostering dialogue between parents and teens and teens and their peers on the importance of buckling up, maintaining safe speeds, preventing underage drinking, and not driving impaired. The coalition’s first outreach campaign is in collaboration with HBO Family and its hard-hitting documentary, “Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol,” with an accompanying community kit. The HBO Family/RADD Educational Community Kit was developed in partnership with NOYS and will be mailed to all registered high school SADD chapters. The “Smashed” kit includes the documentary DVD, teacher’s guide, lesson plan, survey, and more. If you are not a registered SADD chapter, visit the SADD Web site at [www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org) for information about how to order the kit.

### **“Sudden Impact: After the Crash”**

Drunk driving crashes: they happen every day and when they do, the report on the nightly news goes something like this ... “One dead, five injured in a car crash. Drunk driving suspected.” This program, narrated by Tom Brokaw, goes behind the scenes of one such crash and describes what happens over the course of the year after the crash. How do the victims and their families fare? What is the emotional toll? What are the financial costs? This program reveals that the crash itself is just the beginning of an ever-expanding series of events that affect far more than the original car crash.

**TO ORDER** the video or to receive more information, contact Human Relations Media toll-free at 800-431-2050. *The “Sudden Impact: After the Crash” video is available from Human Relations Media for a discounted rate of \$99.95.*

### **“The Truth About Drinking”**

The Emmy Award-winning “The Truth About Drinking,” produced by Arnold Shapiro and hosted by Leeza Gibbons, shows teens the potential consequences of drinking and alcohol use from every perspective, including how drinking impairs a person’s coordination, vision, and reaction time; how the brain and other organs suffer lasting damage from alcohol use; how an impaired person really drives; and how drinking can lead to spending months in a rehabilitation center. The program culminates in a realistic simulation of the “deaths” of three teen participants who got into a car with a fourth friend who was driving drunk.

“The Truth About Drinking” is part of *The Teen Files*, a series of videos for educating teens and challenging their views on behaviors such as substance abuse, racism, violence, and more.

**TO ORDER** the video or to receive more information, contact Rodney Kelly toll-free at 800-367-2467, ext. 331. *“The Truth About Drinking” is available through AIMS Multimedia for \$149.95.*

### **“Underage Drinking: Know the Facts, Know the Risks”**

What really happens at unsupervised teen parties and prom events? What are the penalties for parents and teens for underage teen drinking incidents? What scientific evidence is there that alcohol use damages the still developing adolescent brain? What are the serious health risks, such as car crashes, alcohol poisoning and crashes, that accompany underage teen drinking incidents? Through interviews with real teens, parents, emergency room physicians, and law enforcement experts, the risks and stark truths of this often winked at phenomenon are examined. The video and accompanying package outline proven ways to reduce underage drinking in the school and community environment. The program also places emphasis on improving communication skills between students and parents and clearly depicts a “no use” message as the best solution.

**TO ORDER** the video or to receive more information, contact Human Relations Media toll-free at 800-431-2050. *The “Underage Drinking: Know the Facts, Know the Risks” video or DVD is available from Human Relations Media for a discounted rate of \$99.95. For a video preview, go to [www.hrvideo.com](http://www.hrvideo.com).*

**ROLE-PLAY**  
*If you are interested in practicing and performing a role-play skit followed by a panel discussion, rather than showing a video or DVD, you can use the suggested skit script included in the back of this booklet.*

## Step 2: Organizing Committees

When putting together a program or assembly, it is helpful to divide the work into committees that can be responsible for different parts of the effort. If you have a small chapter, the work can be done in steps rather than by separate committees.

For organizing your program or assembly, we suggest having three committees. You will find some important planning information for each committee detailed in this booklet. The following are short descriptions of each committee.

### **Panel Committee**

As early as possible, assemble a panel of professionals in your community to work with your SADD chapter in preparation for the day of the program or assembly. This panel of people will respond to the situations presented in your program and conduct a question and answer session with those in attendance. We suggest contacting local professionals, such as local judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, EMTs, physicians, etc. See the Panel Committee guidelines for additional information.

### **Performance and Media Committee**

This committee will be responsible for organizing the presentation of your program or assembly and is also responsible for getting proper approval from school administrators to organize the event and obtaining the necessary space and equipment. This committee should confer with the Panel Committee to schedule a rehearsal and to coordinate the actual program or assembly. The committee members will also devote time to obtaining positive media for this campaign. Instructions for this committee and media templates are included in this kit.

### **Parent and Community Outreach Committee**

A number of outreach activities can be done in conjunction with your program or assembly. This committee is responsible for organizing these activities (which are detailed later in the committee instructions). There are many community groups who may be interested in working with your SADD chapter. This committee should focus in particular on ways to provide information about this program or assembly and its messages to parents and other adults in the community.



# Step 3: The Committees Go to Work

## Panel Committee Instructions

The Panel Committee's task is to gather a panel of professionals in the community to attend your assembly and respond to the situations presented by the video or DVD you show or the skit you choose to perform. If you choose to show a video/DVD, preview it and be sure to select panel members who are appropriate to discuss the issues in your presentation. If you are performing a skit, make sure you build in time for practicing the skit and that you make copies of your skit script to share with every invited panel member. We suggest contacting local professionals, such as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, emergency room physicians or nurses, EMTs, victims, parents, rehabilitation specialists, etc. Again, look at the issues you will be presenting in your video, DVD, or skit presentation and choose panel members who will be able to connect well with the issues.

### How to Form a Panel

Talk with your SADD advisor, school principal or school resource officer, or your local DARE officer to obtain names and contact information for professionals in your area who would be most likely to help in your efforts. Whenever possible, invite professionals who have had experience with underage drinking cases. Assemble a panel that includes as many of the following individuals as possible.

- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Criminal Defense Attorney
- Personal Injury Attorney
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Insurance Provider
- EMT
- Emergency Room Nurse or Physician
- Victim
- Parent

### Making the Calls

Your chapter advisor or other school administrators may have names of local professionals willing to help with your campaign. If you are looking for assistance with legal issues and have trouble identifying help locally, look to your local telephone book to find the phone number for your local district attorney's office.

You can also contact the American Bar Association (ABA) to find out the information for your *local* Bar Association. Their Web site, [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org), offers a listing of different topics in the column on the left. Click on the link for "Related Legal Groups" and from there click on "State and Local Bar Associations." Once you are on the "State and Local Bar Associations" page, you will see a map of the U.S. Click on your state to find a listing of phone numbers for assistance.

You may also call the American Bar Association to ask for the same information. The ABA's contact information is listed below.

American Bar Association  
740 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-1019  
Phone: (202) 662-1000

If you are looking to contact a health care professional, a good resource to consult is EN CARE. Emergency health care professionals are credible educators who are in a unique position to educate the public and advocate for improved safety legislation. As part of their role and responsibilities, they not only deal with multiple injuries on a daily basis but also educate the public on an individual basis. Their mission is to reduce preventable injuries and deaths by raising awareness and promoting healthy behaviors.

You can search for a local state contact on the EN CARE Web site at [www.ena.org/encare](http://www.ena.org/encare).

Once you have collected the information you need to contact potential panelists, call each person on your list to introduce yourself and the idea of your campaign. Your call may result in your having to leave a message or being told to call back, so have your own contact information handy. Ask for an estimated time frame for when you might hear back from someone, and be sure to follow up with another call if that time passes. Always be polite, but be persistent. Remember, your goal is to connect with someone who can help your SADD chapter create the best possible program or assembly. Once you have explained the purpose of your call, this person may also be able to help you identify other professionals who would be strong panel participants.

### What to Say

Introduce yourself.

"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a student at \_\_\_\_\_ School."

"I am a representative of my SADD chapter. We are establishing a working relationship with adult professionals in our community interested in preventing underage drinking as part of a nationwide campaign being launched by SADD and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Our campaign is entitled **Think About It ... Prom & Graduation Season**. We want to prevent underage drinking and also portray the real-life and legal risks involved with underage drinking."

"Would you be interested in being part of a panel that will come to speak to students?"

### Make Copies

Write a short paragraph about the program or assembly you are organizing (include information about the video or DVD you plan to show) and make one copy for each potential panelist you plan to meet. If you will be performing a role-play skit, be sure to copy your script and provide a copy to each of your panelists.

### Set Up a Meeting Time

If the contact person is interested in working with your SADD chapter, schedule a time to meet in person with your SADD advisor or another school administrator. When you meet, bring along a copy of the video or DVD you plan to show or mail a copy in advance of the meeting. The information you provide will help guide the panel participants in responding to the audience on the day of your event.

The following are some questions you can discuss with panelists in preparation for their response to your presentation.

- What are some situations you would like youth to know about that have consequences they might not think of every day or when they are in the moment?
- When it comes to underage alcohol and drug use, what is most important for youth to know, aside from the fact that it is against the law?
- About which issues do you most want to communicate with youth?
- What questions do you frequently answer for young people?
- Do you have an example or a case study that would be helpful to share with our group?

### **Other Things to Say**

You may use some or all of the following points.

- Our SADD chapter is a group of teens committed to addressing the issue of underage drinking.
- We believe that by working with young people like us, you can help educate those under 21 and others about the risks involved when making a decision to use alcohol.
- We believe that working with young people will help reduce underage drinking.
- Here are some things our SADD chapter can do for you.
  - Help get information to teens before they have a problem that gets them into the legal or medical system.
  - Attract the media, providing greater publicity for our message and the work we are doing with you and others to prevent underage drinking.
  - Assist you with a presentation in the community about law enforcement efforts and/or prevention of underage drinking.

### **Important Tips**

- If you are pursuing a law enforcement approach, work with your district attorney to identify a criminal defense attorney who will approach this topic from a prevention perspective. While the effectiveness of the American judicial system is a worthy topic for a school assembly, this program is not the forum for relating how a young person can evade legal consequences of underage drinking and impaired driving.
- Give panelists recommendations for how to speak most effectively to teens to ensure the messages will be heard.
- Ask them what efforts to prevent underage drinking are underway in the community.
- Let them know when you will begin your campaign efforts and that you are planning to involve local media outlets.
- Leave the meeting with an agreement to work together, and find out the best way to keep in touch.

# Performance and Media Committee Instructions

This committee is responsible for making the necessary preparations for the assembly performance, such as finalizing which video or DVD will be shown and obtaining a copy, making necessary audio visual arrangements at your school or, if you are performing a skit, making sure all necessary props are on hand. This committee should also send pictures of your completed event to the SADD National office. This committee is also responsible for working to attract media attention for events your SADD chapter is planning in conjunction with this campaign.

## Performance Specifics

At first, organizing an event like this may seem like an overwhelming task. There are, however, many people who will be happy to help once you get the word out about your event.

1. Start your planning as soon as you receive this kit. The more time you have to plan, the better off your chapter will be.
2. Meet with administrators at your school to get permission to host this event. *Note: because of the graphic nature of some of the videos or DVDs, we suggest that you discuss this event with your school nurse or other medical personnel to enlist the participation of one of these professionals the day of the event (students in the audience may become disturbed or sickened by some of the scenes).*
3. Discuss with your SADD chapter members which video or DVD would best meet the needs of your school and community.
4. Ask your school administrator to give you a list of things your chapter can do to help prepare for the event.
5. Work with school administrators to identify a date and time for your event.
6. Do a run through to make sure all of the technical glitches have been worked out.
7. Publicize your event. Make sure that everyone in your school knows about the campaign and the program or assembly you are planning. Put up posters, perform skits at assemblies, send out e-mails ... do whatever you need to do to make sure your school is excited about the event.
8. Make task lists for steps that need to be completed by your committee on the day of the event relating to setting up and cleaning up.
9. Document your event well! Take pictures, videos, and notes. Be sure to send information about your event to the SADD National office.

SADD, Inc.  
Attention: Program Coordinator  
255 Main Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

## Media Specifics

To gain maximum exposure for your chapter's campaign activities, follow these guidelines when preparing to contact media outlets.

Be sure that some chapter members on this committee are articulate and comfortable speaking in public. You should identify someone as the lead spokesperson. This person should be easy to contact.



**Scout out the local media.** Check your telephone book and make a list of all local television and cable stations, radio stations, and newspapers (including dailies and weeklies). Call to get the names of the reporters who cover the education, metro, and police or health beats.

**Refer to the templates included in this campaign kit.** In the "Templates" section of this manual, you will find the templates listed below that are designed to make your tasks easier. They are also available online at [www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org). You can adapt these templates to include additional information. Be sure to print these documents on your school's letterhead.

- Media Advisory
- Press Release
- Letter to the Editor
- Op-Ed Article
- Drop-In News Article
- Radio Public Service Announcement Scripts

## Hints

Newsrooms are extremely busy, and information is easily lost. If you are unable to find a specific person to address your information to, send it to the Assignment Desk. Mention that this event is related to prom or graduation, since many media outlets will be looking for those stories at this time of year.

Send reporters media advisories about upcoming events or press releases detailing your involvement in any events you plan.

Follow up by phone to introduce yourself. Remind the reporters of when and where your chapter's event will take place, and ask if they need any additional information.

These media contacts can be valuable to your SADD chapter. Stay in touch with them and inform them about your chapter's work throughout the school year.

# Parent and Community Outreach Committee Instructions

## The Committee

This committee should focus on getting campaign messages into the community and into the hands of parents and other adults. They provide a broader reach for the messages about issues that are important to you.

Also, it will be helpful to obtain or produce a fact sheet about the law and statistics unique to your state. Many state offices (Registry of Motor Vehicles, district attorney's office, state bar association, department of public health) have already prepared such materials and will share them with your SADD chapter.

Included in this section are some suggestions of how to incorporate parents into your campaign activities and how you can disseminate information among your local businesses.

## Incorporating Parents Into Your Campaign

Parents are important players in the lives of their children. It is important to include parents in building awareness about the school's alcohol and drug use policy, particularly during prom and graduation season. Parents may not be aware of the policy or of the pressures faced by their children. They also may not be aware of the legal consequences that could affect them if their student becomes involved in a situation with alcohol.

Here are some ideas for including parents.

- Organize a special showing for parents of the event you are planning.
- Have school administrators on hand to answer questions about the school policy on alcohol and drug use and in particular the consequences that can affect graduation.
- Invite a panel and be sure to include a district attorney who can talk to parents about the legal risks for parents when children make the choice to use alcohol.
- Work with your SADD advisor and your school principal to organize a mailing to send home to parents. [We have provided a sample for your use. Adapt it to include the name of your school, and print it on your school letterhead.]

## Template: Notice to Parents and Other Adults

*This notice is geared towards issues that may arise if you choose to present a skit or show a DVD/video that focuses on liability and other legal consequences. You may wish to amend it to add health and medical issues that relate to the DVD, video, or skit you are presenting. Also consider ways for parents to participate, either by scheduling an independent viewing of the DVD/video or staging of the skit or inviting parents to attend with the students.*

The widespread use of alcohol and other drugs subjects youth, families, and entire communities to pressures unheard of 30 or 40 years ago. Today automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for teens, and recent data shows that approximately 36% of traffic deaths of 15- to 20-year-olds are alcohol-related. Our communities need help to deal with this threat to the health and well-being of our youth.

Furthermore, heavy drinking is especially dangerous for teenagers, whose brains are still developing, and alcohol-related damage incurred at a young age can have long-term effects. A recent study by the National Institutes of Health suggests that the region of the brain that inhibits risky behavior is not fully formed until age 25. This information serves as a wakeup call to parents, physicians, elected officials, law enforcement officials, purveyors of alcohol – including the alcohol industry – and teens themselves. Many people believe that underage drinking is an inevitable “rite of passage” that adolescents can easily recover from because their bodies are more resilient, but the opposite is true.

Our SADD chapter is taking part in a campaign that will raise awareness in schools and communities about the real-life and legal risks involved with underage drinking and impaired driving. The campaign is entitled **Think About It ... Prom & Graduation Season**.

As part of this campaign, we will work with law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, community members, and the media to focus attention on the campaign’s message. Through our efforts, we hope to strengthen ties to local law enforcement agencies and other community leaders to encourage cooperative efforts in the future.

We are sending this notice home to parents to provide resources and strategies for underage drinking and drug use prevention.

Parents and other adults need to know the facts about alcohol and other drugs in order to provide today’s teens with current and correct information. In addition, well-informed parents and adults are better able to recognize if a child has symptoms of alcohol- or drug-related problems.

Recent SADD/Liberty Mutual *Teens Today* research shows that good communication between parents and teenagers can have a positive influence on risk-taking behavior by teens. Teens who report regular, open communication with their parents about important issues say they are more likely to try to live up to their parents’ expectations and less likely to drink, use drugs, or engage in early sexual behavior.

### Tips for Parents and Other Adults

- Know what your children are doing.
- Be involved in your kids’ lives.
- Praise and reward good behavior.
- Set limits with clear rules and consequences for breaking them.
- Know the different types of drugs and alcohol most commonly used and the dangers associated with each.
- Be able to identify different types of drugs and the paraphernalia associated with each drug.

- Be familiar with the street names of drugs and slang associated with alcohol use.
- Recognize the signs of alcohol and other drug use and be alert to changes in your child's behavior or appearance.
- Know how to get help promptly if you suspect your child may be using alcohol and other drugs.

## Resources

Listed below are some important Web sites and resources for parents and adults.

### **National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign**

[www.TheAntiDrug.com](http://www.TheAntiDrug.com)

### **National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI)**

[www.health.org](http://www.health.org)

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

[www.family.samhsa.gov](http://www.family.samhsa.gov)

### **SADD/Liberty Mutual, Teens Today Research**

For more information about SADD/Liberty Mutual "Teens Today" research log onto [www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org). There is a link to information under the "Media" heading in the upper right corner of the Web site.

## Contacting Local Businesses

Brainstorm ideas with others to devise a list of local businesses, corporations, and other organizations as potential partners or supporters. In particular, list businesses that employ young people and are also interested in the issues of underage drinking and traffic safety. Also consider contacting businesses that are utilized by students at your school during prom and graduation season, such as limousine rental companies, tuxedo rental companies, local florists, photographers, etc.

Call or send a letter. Telephone calls are more effective because they establish an immediate personal contact.

If you are calling a large business, ask for the human resources or public relations department. In smaller offices, ask for the office manager.

Be prepared to talk to several people to find your contact. Be polite but persistent.

Emphasize to professionals in your community the importance of the event you are planning.

## Partnering With Local Businesses

### **Tell them how they can help you and what you can do for them.**

Ask your local business contacts if they would be willing to promote the **Think About It ... Prom & Graduation Season** campaign by doing one or more of the following things.

- Include notices with campaign messages in their payroll envelopes.
- E-mail information to clients in their list serve or database.
- Include fliers with campaign messages on boxes or in bags (for takeout food businesses).
- Distribute fliers with campaign messages in the pockets of rented tuxedos, in boxes with floral arrangements, etc.

### **Let them know how SADD students can, in return, help them.**

- Offer SADD members' assistance with a business special event in return for support for your efforts.
- Suggest a story in the local paper (or other media outlet) about the company's work with SADD.
- Make certificates for the businesses, recognizing them for joining SADD in these campaign efforts.

# Role-Play – Character Script

The following is a suggested script for a role-play. This script touches upon several issues; however, if there is an issue your chapter would like to address, feel free to adapt the script to incorporate other issues. Your set can be very simple, using just a few chairs and other props.

If your community has recently experienced a real-life situation similar to one presented in the role-play, you may want to change your role-play to portray a different scenario.

**Narrator:** *I'd like to introduce you to a few characters you are about to meet.*

*Lynn is a well-liked high school junior.*

*José is an athlete. He is a star on the track team and is also a senior.*

*Mark is also a senior. He is Lynn's boyfriend of several months.*

*Jessica is a very popular junior at school. She lives in a large house.*

*There are a few characters I'd like to introduce you to who will not be present today.*

*James is a 38-year-old father of two. His 32-year-old wife Maria is 8 months pregnant.*

*Jessica's parents are away on business.*

**Here's what's happening:**

*Lynn has been invited to attend the senior prom by her boyfriend Mark. Lynn's parents do not condone underage drinking. Lynn knows this and respects this boundary. Lynn goes to the prom and to an unofficial after-prom party with her boyfriend, Mark, prepared to have a great time with her friends.*

**Lynn:** Hey, Jessica, great party. I had no idea there would be so many people here!

**Jessica:** Thanks, Lynn, yeah! I kind of invited a lot of people. My parents are away for the weekend, but it's cool. My mom knows I'm having people over. Did you come with Mark? I hope he's ready for some fun [pointing at the bar].

**Lynn:** Yeah, [hesitates] yeah.

**Mark:** Hey, Jessica, nice party ... where's the keg?

**Lynn:** [pulls Mark aside] Mark, I didn't know you planned on drinking tonight. I wish we had talked about this.

**Mark:** [laughing] It's my prom. Don't worry, I'm not gonna drink much!

**Lynn:** [confused, worried] OK.

**Mark:** Hey José! How long have you been here?

**José:** Oh, uh, I was the first one here. I left the prom early to be the first one in line!

**Jessica:** [shouting to the crowd] I think it's time for a game!

*José, Jessica, Mark, and others join in a drinking game.*

**Narrator:** *Forty-five minutes pass.*

**José:** [walks away from the game, drunk] Hey, Lynn, c'mon and play, you know you want to ...

**Lynn:** No, no, I'm sitting this one out, and uh ... you don't look so good.

**Narrator:** *Another hour passes.*

**José:** [trips and falls on the floor, laughing at himself – he can't get up]

**Lynn:** [approaches Jessica] I think things are a little out of control. José just fell over there.

**Jessica:** Oh, relax, he'll be okay. [Jessica sarcastically yells to José.] What's the matter, José, poor baby – did you fall down?

**Lynn:** [approaches Mark] I think it's time we get going, Mark. This is crazy.

**Mark:** Why do you wanna go already? It's my prom! I'm staying.

**Lynn:** Well, OK, but not for too much longer.

**Mark:** Have you seen José around?

**Lynn:** I saw him a while ago. He was so drunk he fell down.

**Mark:** Shoot, let's see if we can find him. [puts his arm around Lynn and stumbles over to José]

**José:** [looks sleepy and dazed]

**Mark:** Dude, you fell! Get up.

**José:** [doesn't respond, slumps down in the corner]

**Jessica:** [approaches Jose, Mark, and Lynn] What's wrong?

**Mark:** I don't know, but you'd better take care of this guy ... We're leaving. [puts arm around Lynn, walks out the door, takes the bottle of beer he is drinking with him]

**Lynn:** Mark, give me your keys.

**Mark:** Are you for real? [laughing at Lynn] I'm FINE! Let's go.

**Lynn:** Look at me. How many fingers am I holding up? [holds up two fingers]

**Mark:** Two!

**Lynn:** OK, fine. Let's get out of here.

**Narrator:** *Mark is in the driver's seat. He rests his open beer bottle in the cup holder. Lynn is in the passenger seat and does not buckle her seat belt. They drive a little farther than two miles when they crash into another driver.*

*Meanwhile, neighbors have called to complain about the noise from Jessica's party. The police arrive to find the remains of the party. The only people there are Jessica and José. José is vomiting and appears to have a broken ankle.*

**What happened? Let me explain.**

*(Each actor who is present steps forward as his name is called.)*

**Lynn:** *Lynn was ejected from the car. She was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where she was admitted. She does not remember anything that happened. She suffered a head injury and spent several months in a rehabilitation facility. She will never recover fully. The police visited her while she was in the hospital but declined to file a criminal charge against her. Lynn's parents have sued Jessica's parents.*

**José:** *José was charged with underage drinking and disorderly conduct. He was taken by ambulance to the local hospital, where his stomach was pumped and he was treated for his broken ankle. He was released to his parents. José's parents sued Jessica's parents to recover medical costs.*

**Jessica:** Charged with underage drinking and disorderly conduct, Jessica was taken to spend the night in jail until her parents were contacted.

**James and Maria:** James, the driver of the passing car Mark crashed into, was critically injured. Maria was not otherwise injured severely but she suffered a miscarriage. She was wearing her seat belt at the time of the crash. Maria and James have sued Mark and also Jessica's parents.

**Mark:** Mark was not injured in the crash. The police arrived at the scene of the crash and requested that Mark take a Breathalyzer test. Mark failed the test, was arrested at the scene, and was later charged with vehicular homicide. He went to jail that night and his case was handled by the judicial system.

**Jessica's parents:** When the police found Jessica's parents, who were away on business, they explained what had happened at the house. Jessica's parents acknowledged they had told Jessica she could have a few friends over. They refused to discuss what they had said about drinking at their house. In addition, Jessica's parents were sued by Lynn's parents, José's parents, and James and Maria for damages resulting from the night's events.

## Suggestions for Other Scenarios

**Two Girls:** Kim and Christy

**One Boy:** Craig

**Adults:** Kim's Parents and Christy's Parents

Kim and Christy have been looking forward to prom night all year. Both girls will be attending the prom with their dates and have told their parents that they'll be attending the school-sponsored post-prom party. Kim thought that it'd be more fun if they lie and skip out on the post-prom party. Instead, Kim thinks they should drive to visit her brother Craig who attends college about an hour from where the prom is being held. Kim is certain her brother will be able to hook them up with some free booze after the prom and they can crash at his dorm until morning. Christy thinks it sounds like fun but is worried about lying to her parents. They decide to visit Craig and figure that no one will ever know the difference. That night they are caught by campus police, drinking at a party in Craig's room. What happens next?

**Two Boys:** Paul and Mike

**One Girl:** Sonja

**Adults:** Paul's Parents

Paul is a high school senior and honor roll student and is very popular. Paul's parents are very proud that he is about to graduate from high school and have decided to throw him a graduation party so that he can celebrate this special time with his friends. Paul's parents have also decided that they will provide alcohol for the party. About 20 of Paul's closest friends attend the party, including Paul's best friend Mike and his girlfriend Sonja. Although Paul's parents are home, they decide to stay out of sight for the night to let the kids enjoy their party. Mike and Sonja enjoy some drinks at Paul's party and then hop in the car to drive to another graduation party a few miles away. Mike loses control of the car and crashes into a house a few blocks away. What happens next?

