

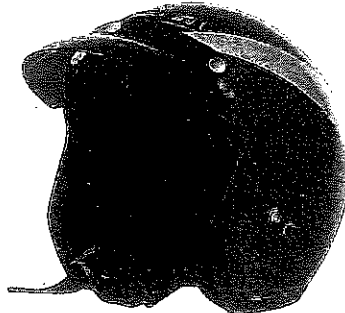
Directions: Read the two selections. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Citizen Speaks in Support of Universal Motorcycle Helmet Laws

My notes about
what I am reading

- 1 Motorcycle riding can be a fun and cheap way to travel. I have ridden motorcycles and understand the feeling of freedom a motorcycle can offer. But I also take very seriously the increased risk that comes with riding these vehicles. That is why I wear a helmet. It is a sensible thing to do. Sadly, many motorcycle riders choose to forgo the enormous benefits this small safety measure can provide.
- 2 In our country, each state is allowed to create its own laws regarding motorcycle helmets. Some states require that all riders wear helmets. In other states, only the youngest riders need to wear them. In a handful of states, there are no laws requiring helmet use. I believe that ALL states should require ALL motorcycle riders to wear helmets.
- 3 Riding a motorcycle is obviously more dangerous than riding in a car. Not surprisingly, when traffic accidents involve a motorcycle rider, that rider is often injured or killed. Those riding without helmets are almost always seriously injured or killed. This has been proven by many studies. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a motorcyclist is approximately 37 times more likely to die in a crash than someone riding in a car. Head injury is the leading cause of death for these riders.
- 4 Helmets reduce these deaths and injuries. Helmets save lives. One study by NHTSA shows that helmets reduce the risk of death by almost one-third. They also prevent brain injuries about two-thirds of the time. These facts alone are good reasons to wear protection while riding.
- 5 Still, many motorcycle riders refuse to wear helmets. These riders are extreme risk-takers with no concern for the consequences of their actions. Some riders who oppose helmet laws go so far as to make false claims about helmets. They claim helmets make seeing and hearing traffic more difficult. Studies have proven, however, that helmets block only 3% of side vision and thus have little or no effect on a rider's ability to see and hear in traffic. Slight adjustments in head movement are all that is needed to see beyond the edge of any helmet. Studies also prove that helmets do not reduce the ability to hear in traffic situations.

- 6 Some motorcycle riders complain that helmets are too expensive. But the cost of a helmet is minor compared to the cost of treating a serious injury. An unprotected motorcyclist can expect extremely high medical bills after an accident. The average hospital charge for motorcyclists with serious head injuries is almost three times that of motorcyclists with mild or no head injuries. NHTSA estimates that motorcycle helmet use saved billions of dollars in the last two decades. Billions more would have been saved if ALL motorcyclists had worn helmets during that time.
- 7 Another claim by opponents is that simply educating motorcycle riders about safety will convince them to wear helmets. Safety education is crucial to saving lives. Unfortunately, safety education has not convinced enough riders to wear helmets. In states with weak or no helmet laws, only one-third to one-half of motorcycle riders wear helmets, despite safety warnings. By contrast, in states where all riders are required to wear helmets, close to 100% of them do so.
- 8 Laws are simply the only way to get people to protect themselves. And laws that are easy to enforce are the most effective laws. Since motorcycle riders are very visible, laws that require all riders to wear helmets are easy to enforce. Officers simply pull over any riders not wearing helmets. Laws that require only minors to wear helmets, however, are difficult to enforce. Officers must guess at the rider's or passenger's age before stopping that person.
- 9 Finally, many motorcycle riders believe their actions do not affect others. They believe that they should be free to take great risks. But these serious accidents do not affect riders only. They affect many people: police officers, ambulance drivers, doctors, and friends and relatives of the riders. By simply wearing a helmet, motorcyclists can save others the trauma of dealing with their serious injuries.
- 10 A strong helmet law is not a motorcyclist's nemesis. It will protect riders, save lives, save money, and prevent a great deal of misery. Research shows that most people in this city already support strong helmet laws. I urge all of you to do the same. Please, contact your congressperson today and urge him or her to support this important legislation.



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U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
November 2, 2007

Dear Reader,

- 1 As with any mode of transportation, motorcycle riding brings both benefits and risks. As an avid motorcycle enthusiast myself, I know firsthand the joy and the pain that can come with the freedom of the open road.
- 2 In August 2005, I suffered a broken collarbone in a motorcycle crash. Had it not been for my protective gear—including my helmet—I am convinced I would have suffered severe injury, or even death.
- 3 Unfortunately, many motorcycle crash victims aren't so lucky. While we have been successful in reducing automobile deaths in recent years, our progress is being negated by a rise in the rate of motorcycle fatalities—which have more than doubled in the last decade. I believe that overcoming this tragic trend is the greatest highway safety challenge our nation faces today. Therefore, the U.S. Department of Transportation is launching a comprehensive new initiative to curb the rising rate of motorcycle fatalities and to protect the joy and freedom that motorcycling can bring.
- 4 This new plan will help reduce motorcycle fatalities with new national safety and training standards, curb the use of counterfeit helmet labeling, place a new focus on motorcycle-specific road improvements, provide training for law enforcement officers on how to spot unsafe motorcyclists, and create a broad public awareness campaign on rider safety.
- 5 We have much work to do, but I am confident this new initiative will give us the kick-start we need to enjoy safer roads ahead.

Safe Riding,
Mary E. Peters
U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Use "A Citizen Speaks in Support of Universal Motorcycle Helmet Laws"
(pp. 12-13) to answer questions

1. The speaker made this speech mainly to—

- F entertain readers with stories of motorcycle riding.
- G inform readers of how laws are passed.
- H explain the effects of motorcycle accidents.
- J persuade readers to support strong helmet laws.

2. Which detail supports the speaker's argument that it is sensible to wear a helmet?

- A Motorcycle riding is enjoyed by many people throughout the country.
- B Helmets prevent brain injuries about two-thirds of the time.
- C In most states it is still legal for some riders to ride without a helmet.
- D Motorcycle riders complain that helmets are too expensive.

3. Read the chart showing information from the speech.

Counter argument	Speaker's Argument
Helmets make it harder to see and hear.	Studies prove that helmets don't reduce vision and hearing.
Helmets are too expensive.	
Riders do not need laws; they only need safety education.	In states with weak laws or no law, up to half of motorcycle riders still ride unsafely, despite safety education.
A rider's risk-taking only affects him- or herself.	Serious injuries affect police officers, doctors, friends, and relatives.

Which of these belongs in the empty box on the chart?

- F The cost of a helmet is far less than the cost of a serious injury.
- G Citizens should urge their lawmakers to support helmet laws.
- H All motorcycle riders should wear helmets to reduce risk.
- J Motorcycle helmets should be available at low cost to some riders.

4. Which statement represents an opinion?

- A States have created their own laws regarding motorcycle helmet use.
- B Each state should require ALL motorcycle riders to wear helmets.
- C Helmets reduce the risk of death by almost one-third.
- D Many motorcycle riders are strongly against helmet laws.



- _____ 5. Which sentence contains the **claim/thesis statement**?
- A. Motorcycle riding can be a fun and cheap way to travel.
 - B. That is why I wear a helmet.
 - C. Some states require that all riders need to wear them
 - D. I believe that ALL states should require ALL motorcycle riders to wear helmets

- _____ 6. *Riding a motorcycle is obviously more dangerous than riding in a car.*

The sentence above in paragraph 3 is an example of a --

- A. thesis statement
 - B. counter argument
 - C. topic sentence
 - D. closing sentence
- _____ 7. Which words in paragraph 6 are the best examples of **loaded language**?
- A. minor, serious, extremely high
 - B. cost, motorcyclist, decades
 - C. charge, estimates, time
 - D. There is no loaded language in this paragraph.

- _____ 8. Which sentence does **NOT** act as a **transition** between ideas?

- A. Another claim by opponents is that simply education motorcycle riders about safety will convince them wear helmets.
- B. Finally, many motorcycle riders believe their actions do not affect others.
- C. In our country, each state is allowed to create its own laws regarding motorcycle helmets.
- D. Still, many motorcycle riders refuse to wear helmets.

- _____ 9. Which sentence states a **counter argument**?

- A. Some motorcycle riders complain that helmets are too expensive.
- B. Laws are simply the only way to get people to protect themselves.
- C. Safety education is crucial to saving lives.
- D. Officers simply pull over any riders not wearing helmets.

- _____ 10. Which sentence contains the writer's **call to action**?

- A. A strong helmet law is not a motorcyclist's nemesis.
- B. It will protect riders, save lives, save, money, and prevent a great deal of misery.
- C. Research shows that most people in this city already support strong helmet laws.
- D. Please contact your congressperson today and urge him or her to support this important legislation.

11. Which statement by the speaker is an example of stereotyping?

- F These riders are extreme risk-takers with no concern for the consequences of their actions.
- G I believe that all states should require ALL motorcycle riders to wear helmets.
- H Some motorcycle riders complain that helmets are too expensive.
- J . . . in states where all riders are required to wear helmets, close to 100% of them do so.

12. Which is the best definition of the word nemesis as it is used in paragraph 10?

- A opponent
- B protector
- C monster
- D helper

13. Which of the following best describes the organization of paragraph 3?

- F ranking motorcycle accidents from least to most serious
- G presenting events in the order in which they occur
- H comparing car accidents to motorcycle accidents
- J explaining how to ride a motorcycle safely

14. Which is the best summary of the speech?

- A A citizen explains why she thinks all states should require all motorcycle riders to wear helmets, citing facts that show how helmet use saves lives, money, and misery. She disputes each claim by helmet law opponents with facts and urges people to support a helmet law in their state.
- B A citizen describes how riding motorcycles helps her feel freedom and power but explains that she also wears a helmet. Some states have laws that say all riders must wear helmets, while others require only young riders to wear them. A few states have no helmet laws at all.
- C A citizen knows firsthand that motorcycles are cheap and fun, but she doesn't like that some people ride them without helmets. She tells how dangerous it is to ride without a helmet. A motorcycle rider is 37 times more likely to die in a traffic accident than a person driving a car.
- D A citizen disagrees with those motorcycle riders who say helmets are expensive and that wearing one makes it hard to see and hear. She shows that in the long run they are cheaper than hospital bills and that riders can still see and hear well while wearing helmets.

Use the letter (p. 14) to answer questions

15. The main purpose of the letter is to—
- F persuade readers that motorcycle riding is both fun and dangerous.
 - G inform readers of government plans to improve motorcycle safety.
 - H explain the recent studies about motorcycle accidents in the United States.
 - J compare motorcycle safety now to motorcycle safety ten years ago.

16. In paragraph 3, the word negated means—

- A “improved.”
- B “undone.”
- C “refused.”
- D “found unnecessary.”

17. In this letter, does the author use the writing technique of **closing/clinger sentences** in all of the body paragraphs?

- A. Yes
- B. No

18. The author included paragraphs 1 & 2 in this passage most likely to —

- A. describe how she broke her collarbone.
- B. encourage people to not ride motorcycles.
- C. to seen as an authority on the topic due to her personal experience with motorcycling and of surviving a crash.
- D. list the injuries she suffered in her crash.

19. What fact is causing the government to take these actions?

- F Motorcycle use is increasing.
- G Motorcycles have become more expensive.
- H The letter’s author suffered a serious motorcycle accident.
- J Motorcycle fatalities have more than doubled in the last decade.

20. Which statement BEST indicates the author’s reason for supporting the new plan outlined in the letter?

- A. As with any mode of transportation, motorcycle riding brings both benefits and risks.
- B. In August 2005, I suffered a broken collarbone in a motorcycle crash.
- C. Unfortunately, many motorcycle crash victims aren’t so lucky.
- D. I believe that overcoming this tragic trend is the greatest challenge our nation faces today.

GO ON 

Use **both selections** to answer the following questions,

- _____ 21. Based on the speech **and** the letter, the authors would most likely agree that –
- A. riding a motorcycle is very dangerous.
 - B. wearing a helmet will prevent all fatalities involving motorcycle accidents.
 - C. law enforcement officers need more training on helmet safety.
 - D. the government should create and enforce safety standards for motorcyclists
- _____ 22. One way the speech and letter are **similar** is that they both –
- A. stress the high cost of medical expenses associated with motorcycle accidents
 - B. explain how motorcycle accidents occur.
 - C. include personal experiences of their authors to support their position
 - D. discuss the disturbing rise of motorcycle fatalities in the last decade
- _____ 23. Which is a major **difference** between the speech and the letter?
- A. The speech was written to persuade while the letter was written to entertain
 - B. The speech includes counterarguments while the letter does not
 - C. The speech includes loaded language while the letter does not.
 - D. The speech has a strong call to action while the letter does not.
- _____ 24. Which is a **compound sentence**?
- A. In our country, each state is allowed to create its own laws regarding motorcycle helmets.
 - B. Laws that require minors to wear helmets, however, are difficult to enforce.
 - C. It will protect riders, save lives, save money, and prevent a great deal of misery.
 - D. We have much work to do, but I am confident this new initiative will give us the kick-start we need to enjoy safer roads.