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*Don't Think and Drive!*

This project is about how sound affects reaction time. The purpose of this experiment was to understand the impact of answering questions and music on driving. After researching past studies on reaction time, I created a computer program in order to have accurate data and control when the sounds, questions and music were played through the headphones. After constructing a computer program, sounds were added, and a practice mode was added. The sounds included a control, a constant sound, music, general questions, and math questions. The subjects were required to answer the question aloud. Each test was repeated three times for consistency. Overall, the data suggested that answering questions had the biggest effect on reaction times. The reaction time slowed down by 100% for the general questions and 65% for the math questions. For the constant sound and music, the reaction time did not differ from the control. These results suggest that answering questions has a major effect on reaction time, and furthermore driving. It is important that in the future we as a society think about whether talking on cell phone while driving is really worth the consequence. Is it worthwhile to risk one's life for a phone call? Or is it better to pull over and take a call to not take this risk? All in all, my data suggests that auditory distractions, with the exceptions of music and constant sounds, slow down reaction times.