



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

GRADES 9-12 | LESSON 8

STUDENT JOURNAL

WORK ZONES: WHY THEY MATTER

ABOUT THIS JOURNAL: Work zones ask drivers to be patient. Behind that ask is a real person — a worker standing feet from traffic — whose safety depends entirely on whether drivers follow the signs. This journal asks you to connect the inconvenience of a work zone to the human reality behind it.

REFLECTION PROMPTS

PROMPT 1

Have you ever been frustrated sitting in work zone traffic? Be honest. What thoughts did you have? Now consider that road workers can hear every vehicle that speeds through. Imagine being that worker — standing near the white line as cars rush past, knowing that some of those drivers are looking at their phones or going 15 mph over the posted limit. Does that change your perspective? What specifically changes?

PROMPT 2

Work zone traffic patterns are designed to improve safety and traffic flow. Why is it important for drivers to follow the same traffic pattern through a work zone? How does predictability and cooperation help reduce confusion and crashes? Can you think of other driving situations where following shared rules makes the road safer?

PROMPT 3

The roads in your community were built by someone, are maintained by someone and will be improved by someone — often in work zones. What does it mean to you to think about road safety as a civic responsibility rather than just a personal one? Is there a difference between following a law because you have to and following it because you believe in what it protects? Which type of compliance makes roads safer in the long run?

MY COMMITMENT

MY WORK ZONE COMMITMENT: