



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

GRADES 9-12 | LESSON 10

STUDENT JOURNAL

HANDLING A TRAFFIC STOP: STAY CALM, STAY SMART

ABOUT THIS JOURNAL: A traffic stop is one of the most common interactions between a driver and law enforcement — and one of the least prepared for. This journal asks you to think honestly about what you knew before today, what changed and what kind of driver you intend to be when the moment comes.

REFLECTION PROMPTS

PROMPT 1

Before today's lesson, what did you think you were supposed to do when pulled over? Write out the steps you would have taken — then compare them to what you learned. What did you get right? What was wrong or missing? Where do you think your original beliefs came from — parents, TV, instinct? What does it say that most drivers have never been formally taught this protocol?

PROMPT 2

In the Street Smart video, Lila's friends coached her through the traffic stop in real time. Think about your own situation: if you were pulled over tomorrow, who is in the car with you? Would they know the right steps? Would they help or complicate the situation — like the passenger who might start digging for documents before the officer asks? What does this tell you about the responsibility passengers have during a traffic stop — not just the driver?

PROMPT 3

Lila was pulled over because she was texting while driving. The traffic stop was a direct result of a choice she made. Looking back across this entire curriculum — distracted driving, speeding, peer pressure, impaired driving — which lesson do you think is most likely to be the reason a teen driver gets pulled over? What is the one habit, if you changed it starting today, that would most reduce the chances of you ever needing to use what you learned in this lesson?

MY COMMITMENT

MY TRAFFIC STOP PREPAREDNESS COMMITMENT: