

## Crash Magnets News

There are 20 A5 Crash Magnet News Cards for this activity, each with its own news story. Before distributing them, make a selection on the basis of the range of ability within the class. All names have been removed but other than that each news story is entirely true. There is a sample headline and examples of serious points with each story to help those who find it difficult to come up with ideas quickly. The Highway Code penalty table (**Courting Disaster ts8**) can be copied to inform opinion.

The class can work in groups of twos or threes to make up their own news feature from the short story outline. Encourage them to be creative and imaginative in the way that they develop their headline and news item. They can mimic the style of a particular tabloid if they want. Using clichés such as ‘shock horror’ and ‘outrage’ are good for dramatic effect but the point of the activity is to draw out a serious message from the story.

 If they are going to broadcast their story suggest a role play interview with a witness or relative.

This activity has strong links to citizenship and futures education asking, as it does, that each group thinks about a serious point it wants to make about the incident that it is reporting.

- How can we effect change within society?
- **Are the laws just?**
- How can we, as individuals, make a difference?
- **There are also links to health education.**
- **Personal safety, drink-driving and distraction are featured in some way in almost all stories.**
- **People are not always fully alert whilst driving on the roads. Crashes are often caused by distraction and loss of concentration.**
- **Some people speed because it feels good. Almost everything that feels good on the road is dangerous.**

This activity can be done at tables with paper and pen or on PCs/laptops. The outcome is more important than the visual effect. Illustrations can be encouraged either clip art, photo montage or freehand drawing. Make colour available for a bright eye-catching headline.

At the end of the activity, ask each group to present their story in any way that they want to the class. They can read it out as if it is a news bulletin at a local radio station and role play interviews with witnesses at the scene. Did the class spot the serious point that was made for the reader/listener to think about?

**Is there another serious point that could be made about this news item?**