**Practice: Everything Has a Purpose**

NOTE: You do not always need each of these parts of a paragraph, especially the study description. You’ll need those if they are important for building your argument/story. But, don't include them just because they are there. For example, I don't think I'd have included much, if any, of the second sentence of that first paragraph. Or, I’d have shortened it a bit. However, the blue (study details) in the next to last paragraph are essential.

Yellow Highlight=Lead-in/Transition Blue Highlight= Study Description/Hypotheses Pink Highlight= Results Green Highlight= Implications

*Internal Characteristics of Aggressive Drivers (What is a possible heading for this section?)*

The characteristics of drivers may determine the initial behavior and the intensity of the behavior of aggressive driving. One study examined the role of age and gender on aggressive driving, by administering a vignette study to 118 college undergraduates (Dukes, Clayton, Jenkins, Miller, & Rodgers, 2001). The researchers hypothesized that anger and aggressive driving behavior would be higher in older and women drivers. Unlike what was hypothesized, no significant difference was found between age or gender and aggressive driving. This suggests that there is more to aggressive driving than basic demographic makeup. Although additional research that looks at general demographic characteristics may find important relational characteristics, the study of personality traits may be more promising.

Paragraph Focus

Demographics don't always affect driving, Personality may.

The personality of an individual often creates a foundation for a person’s actions and behavior. Using questionnaires, vignettes, and driving logs, researchers have looked at different levels of personal anger and how the intensity of the levels affect the participants’ driving (Deffenbacher, Filetti, & Richards, 2003). As hypothesized, researchers have found that drivers who reported higher levels of daily anger also demonstrated more aggressive, dangerous, and risky behavior while driving (Deffenbacher et al., 2003). High anger drivers were involved in more aggressive driving behavior on a daily basis, and were more likely to be angered by low-anger intensive stimuli (Deffenbacher et al., 2003). Overall, compared to the average driver, higher levels of initial anger may result in more aggressive driving. Although the personal characteristics of drivers often play an important role, external factors may also initiate the behavior of aggressive driving.

Paragraph Focus

How personal trait of anger affects aggressive driving

*External Factors in Aggressive Driving (What is a possible heading for this section?)*

External factors, such as certain objects, behaviors, or social prejudices, may determine the act and intensity of aggressive driving. Research has found that drivers’ aggressive behavior may be triggered or intensified by specific objects or behaviors (Dukes et al., 2001; McGarva et al., 2006; Turner, Layton, & Simons, 1975). Aggressive objects, such as guns or hostile bumper stickers, increased the chance of aggressive behaviors in those drivers observing the objects (Turner et al., 2006). Socially stigmatized behaviors, such as cell phone use while driving, also increased aggressive driving (McGarva et al., 2006). Drivers who observe specific anger evoking objects, or socially unacceptable behaviors, may behave more aggressively.

Paragraph Focus

How external factors affect aggressive driving

These specific objects may also evoke social stereotypes that could increase the chance of aggressive behavior. A study manipulated the condition and age of vehicles to determine if perceived status played a role in aggression (Turner et al., 1975). Results indicate that drivers were less likely to demonstrate aggressive behavior, such as horn honking and hand gestures, towards high status drivers than low status drivers (Turner et al., 1975). This may indicate that drivers have a more positive initial attitude toward high status drivers.

Paragraph Focus

Stereotypes may affect how aggression in driving manifests.

*Victims of Aggressive Driving (What is a possible heading for this section?)*

The act of aggressive driving can elicit both physical and emotional effects on its victims. Victims of aggressive driving may experience adverse responses to the behavior. Researchers found that victims were likely to retaliate against the perpetrator through acts of returned aggression or reporting the incident to the police (Dukes et al., 2001; Turner et al., 1975). Active intentional aggression caused the victim to demonstrate more anger and aggressive behavior than if the perpetrator had demonstrated passive, unintentional aggression (Dukes et al., 2001).

Paragraph Focus

How others (victims) feel about and react to aggressive drivers.