**Directions:**

A complete assignment must include the following:

1. Reading the article (10 Points)
2. Turning your readable work in on time(10 points)
3. Showing evidence of a close reading on the article. (30 points)
4. Completing a one page reflection on separate paper. (50 points)

**Special Lane For Walking Cell Phone Users Opens In China**

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Retrieved from: <http://gogonews.com/special-lane-for-walking-cell-phone-users-opens-in-china/>

Some people just can’t peel themselves away from their phone even when they’re walking on a busy street. So, a Chinese marketing group decided to create a designated texting-and-walking sidewalk lane for those people in the city of Chongquing. Meixin Group marked a 50- metre (164-foot) stretch of pavement with two lanes: one for non-cell phone users, and one for those on their phones with a warning for them to use it at their “own risk.”

“There are lots of elderly people and children in our street, and walking with your cell phone may cause unnecessary collisions here,” said Nong Chen, a marketing official with the group, which manages the area in Chongquing’s entertainment zone.

Ok, the sidewalk isn’t going to stay this way forever. The property manager for the area said the stunt was meant to be ironic to remind people that they shouldn’t tweet while walking in the street. The sidewalk was based off of a similar project in Washington DC created by National Geographic Television in July. It was not very successful as most people didn’t take the lanes seriously or didn’t notice them because they were on their phones!

**Walking while looking down at a cellphone: bad idea**

By Stateline.org, adapted by Newsela staff

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WASHINGTON — Distracted walkers are walking in front of cars and into trees. Staring down at cellphones, they fall off curbs and bridges, and even walk into wet cement. They have gotten cuts and bruises and head injuries. Some have even been killed.

Many cities and states are designing and promoting walkable neighborhoods, partly to attract more young people. At the same time, some are also giving tickets to distracted walkers and lowering speed limits to make streets safer for pedestrians. Pedestrian injuries caused by cellphone use are up 35 percent since 2010, according to numbers from hospital emergency rooms.

**Our "Behavior Is Changing"**

Every year, thousands of pedestrians are injured as they walk in cities. Some researchers say 1 out of 10 of those injuries are caused by a distracting mobile device such as a phone or portable music player.

Utah and New Jersey have given tickets to people who text in dangerous walking situations. New York City now has lower speed limits, in part to make traffic less dangerous for distracted walkers.

New York City’s new speed limits are 20 miles per hour (mph) in Central Park and 25 mph in the rest of the city unless otherwise posted. The city has also been blocking off more streets to make safer pedestrian plazas where cars are not allowed.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx has given $1.6 million to Louisville, Kentucky; New York City and Philadelphia for walker-safety programs. “We’ve got to encourage people to have an awareness that this problem is a real problem,” Foxx said.

**Sidewalks Are Already Crowded**

In 2012, 78,000 pedestrians were injured. It is the highest number since 2001, according to the National Highway Traffic Administration. Also in 2012, 4,700 walkers were killed. That number has been increasing since 2009. It fell for several years before that.

Some areas are focusing on stopping people who use cellphones while walking. Distracted walkers in Utah can get a $50 fine. In New Jersey, police gave tickets to people using phones while walking into traffic.

Philadelphia took a different approach. They made a joke of it. On April Fools’ Day 2012, the city painted “e-lanes” on sidewalks. These lanes were reserved for people staring at their phones. “We know that many, many people are using the sidewalks, looking at their iPhones, BlackBerrys, other electronic devices and they’re quite distracted by those devices, bumping into people,” Mayor Michael Nutter said in a video, as a distracted walker bumped into him. But many pedestrians interviewed by the city thought the lanes were serious — and a good idea.

**Safety Programs**

Minnesota, Utah, North Carolina, South Carolina and Washington state have also begun pedestrian safety programs to reduce traffic deaths.

San Francisco has pledged to spend $50 million on its Walk First program. The city will examine “high injury corridors” to determine why those areas are so dangerous. The plan also suggests raised crosswalks and traffic islands for pedestrians.

In a survey last year by ; Liberty Mutual Insurance, half of pedestrians admitted to talking on the phone while walking across the street. One out of 4 said they text or email while crossing the street, even though they realize it is dangerous.

Texting And Walking Can Be Deadly

University of Buffalo researcher Dr. Dietrich Jehle estimates that 1 in 10 pedestrian injuries is now related to distracted walking. He believes distracted walking causes more accidents than distracted driving. Jehle studied the issue while working as an emergency room doctor.

Texting is the most dangerous thing to do while walking, he said — more dangerous than listening to music or talking on the phone.

A 2011 study found that texting makes walking extremely difficult. People in walking simulations had a 61 percent error rate while texting. “While talking on the phone is a distraction, texting is much more dangerous because you can’t see the path in front of you,” Jehle said.

Associated Press Video: “Dangers of Texting While Walking” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTPxZ1n4M-M