



10TH GRADE: HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE DRIVING CONTRACT

This is not about driving.

That might surprise you, but it is the truth. This experience with your teenager signifies way more than just driving.

There is a shift in your relationship, where your teenager will spend much more time away from you than with you. When they drive a car, they experience their first significant amount of freedom.

That freedom also represents the first opportunity for you to gauge their moral compass. How will they handle making their own decisions apart from you?

- Will they be smart?
- Will they be safe?
- Will they fail miserably?
- Will they surprise you?

This Driving Contract is not about driving; it is about establishing a system for your teenager to both build trust and restore broken trust with you.

What your teenager wants more than anything is freedom. What you want more than anything is for them to be trustworthy. Therefore, if they earn your trust, you are unleashed to reward them with freedom.

This Driving Contract will give you the opportunity to do three very important things:

Teach your teenager how to safely operate a car

Communicate clearly to your teenager, so as to avoid confusion, about what your expectations for them are while driving

Establish a system to strengthen your relationship with them through both building and restoring trust.

You should see this conversation about driving as nothing more than a huge ramp to a greater conversation (i.e. What is our plan for slowly giving to you the freedom of a young adult? What is our plan for restoring trust when it is broken?).

You are giving them more than a set of keys; you are giving them your trust. Don't miss this parenting opportunity that the Driving Contract offers.