



Aggressive Driving: Using Education to Change Driving Behaviors

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Defined

- » Aggressive driving is when a vehicle's driver maneuvers his or her vehicle in a way that endangers others or property.
- » Aggressive driving involves intent.
- » Definitions vary in literature.

- » Aggressive driving has many of the same attributes as reckless driving.
- » Reckless driving is considered negligent, careless, or needless disregard for safety.
- » Aggressive driving adds the **component of intent**. This element of intent is derived from personal aggression, selfishness, egotism, stress, or the competitive nature of the individual or the circumstance.

Who?

- » An aggressive driver could be any individual regardless of career position, driving experience, age, or sex (Galovski, Malta, & Blanchard, 2005).
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- » It should be noted that aggressive driving and road rage are not limited to other vehicles, and may be expressed or targeted toward pedestrians, cyclists, or property.
- » The main concern about aggressive driving is the resultant motor vehicle crashes, property damage, injuries, and death (Galovski, Malta, & Blanchard, 2005).

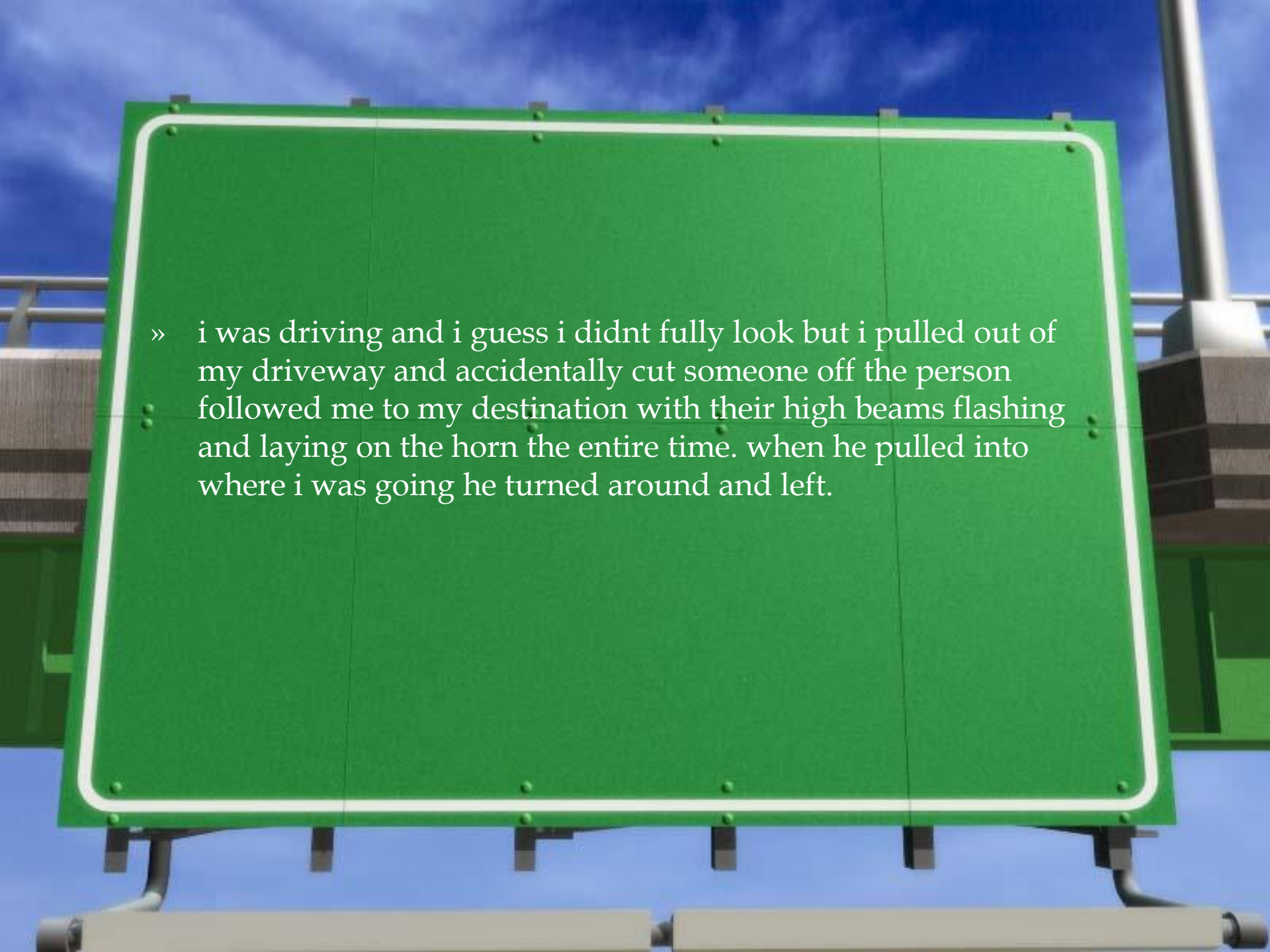
Aggressive driving includes...

- Driving which establishes unnecessary risk or jeopardize the safety of another person or vehicle.
- Maneuvering of a vehicle in a manner endangering or may endanger persons or property.
- Aggressive driving may range from personal risk-taking behavior to hostile actions towards other motorists.

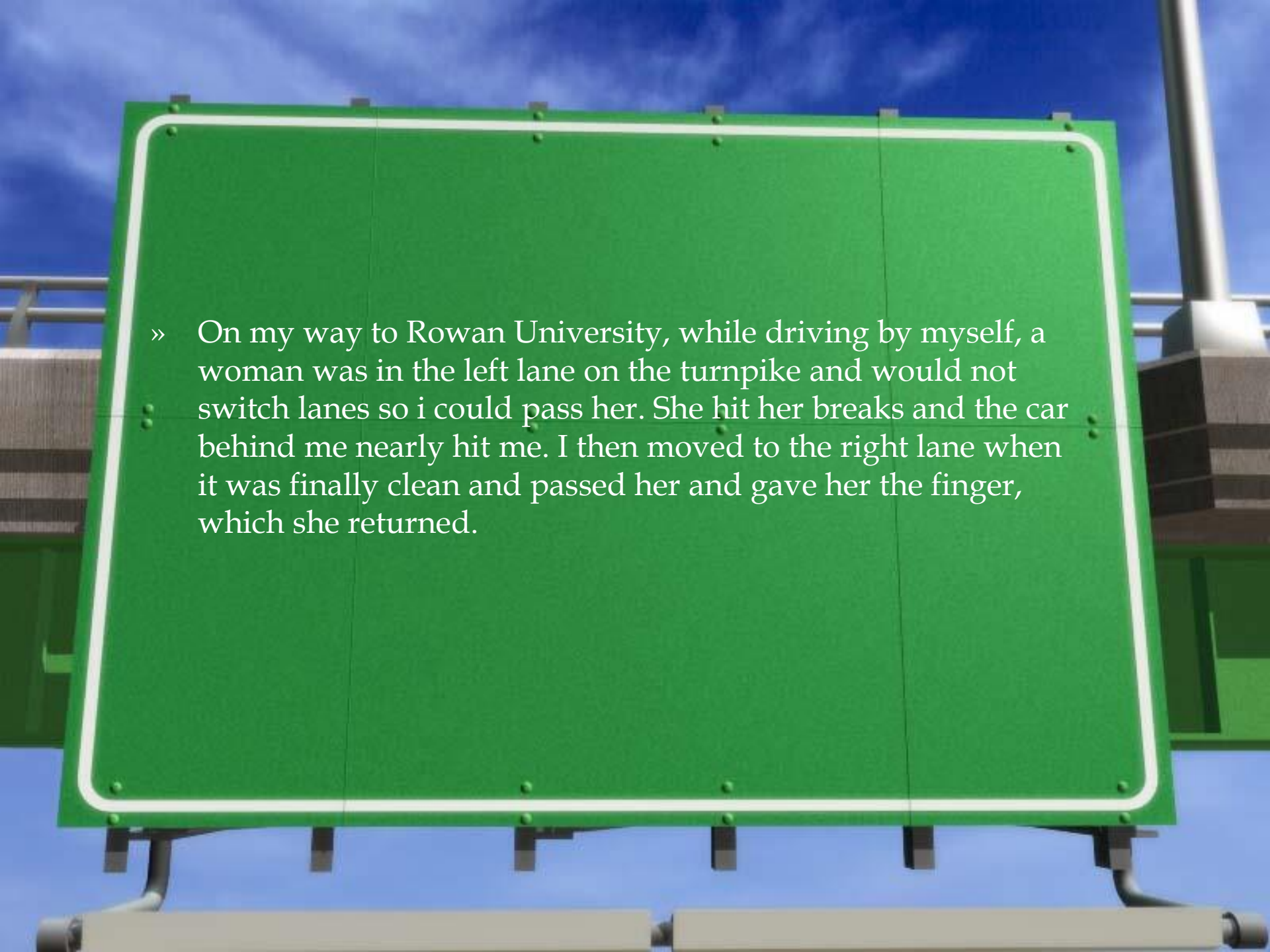
Examples

- » Some guy honked at me the other day because I didn't start driving fast enough at the intersection. I saw the light turn but had to put my car in gear. It took me maybe 5 seconds to start going and the guy honked right before I went. Then he tailgated me until he was able to pass me, at which point he actually drove slower than I had been driving.

» I was waiting to turn out of a controlled intersection that allowed right on red. I saw an opening and proceeded to pull out. While I was pulling out a lady was switching lanes into the lane I was turning into. She layed on her horn and went into the other lane and then got back behind me and started tailgating me. She the rolled down her window and put her hand out the window making the gun gesture and pretending to shoot at me. Also, she was screaming profanities the entire time. She followed for for a few minutes doing this and tailgating me and I was scared and called my brother because I thought she was going to follow me home. When I turned into my neighborhood she stopped following me.



» i was driving and i guess i didnt fully look but i pulled out of my driveway and accidentally cut someone off the person followed me to my destination with their high beams flashing and laying on the horn the entire time. when he pulled into where i was going he turned around and left.



» On my way to Rowan University, while driving by myself, a woman was in the left lane on the turnpike and would not switch lanes so i could pass her. She hit her breaks and the car behind me nearly hit me. I then moved to the right lane when it was finally clean and passed her and gave her the finger, which she returned.

Aggressive Driving Issues

- Thoughts of violence against other users
- Rushed drivers.
- Constantly criticizing other drivers either verbally or in their head.
- Not observing laws considered irrelevant to themselves.
- Believing that their own driving is not part of the problem.

Survey

- » Two universities in the Northeast ($n = 413$, $n = 162$) surveyed
- » Participants ranged from 18-25 with an average age of 20.57 ($SD = 1.62$)
- » 35% male, 65% female

Instruments

- » Participants completed:
 - » A questionnaire with a list of behaviors that
 - » Someone had perpetrated against them in the past 30 days
 - » They have perpetrated in the past 30 days,
 - » They fantasized about perpetrating
 - » Propensity for Angry Driving Scale (PADS; Maxwell, Grant, & Lipkin, 2004)
 - » Demographics questionnaire

- » No significant differences between in the colleges on the PADS
- » While no differences existed between males and females in driving experience and annual estimated mileage, males had a significantly higher score ($M = 4.45$, $SD = .1.74$) on the PADS than females ($M = 4.26$, $SD = 1.52$)

Behaviors Perpetrated by Others

- » Significant Predictors ($R^2 = .038$)
 - » A driver directed rude gestures towards you
 - » You were threatened with a Weapon
 - » You were Tailgated

Behaviors You Perpetrated

- » Significant Predictors ($R^2 = .20$)
 - » You used rude gestures against someone
 - » You sounded your horn
 - » You threw a projectile at another car
 - » You tailgated someone
 - » You passed a driver
 - » You shouted obscenities

Behaviors You Fantasized About

- » Significant Predictors ($R^2 = .11$)
 - » You hoped another driver would veer off the road
 - » You wanted another driver to become angry
 - » You wanted to commit an act of physical violence against another driver
 - » You wanted to verbally assault another driver

Aggressive driving entails...

- » Thrown projectiles that were aimed at another vehicle
- » Pursued another driver
- » Caused an intentional collision
- » Intentionally sped past another vehicle to demonstrate disapproval
- » Prevented another from passing you

Aggressive driving entails...

- » Tailgated
- » Flashing lights
- » Rude gestures
- » Confronted another outside of the vehicle
- » Sounding of a horn
- » Threat of use of a weapon

Aggressive driving entails...

- » Cut off
- » Gave the evil eye
- » Struck another driver
- » Sudden acceleration to prevent another driver from completion of his/her maneuver

Aggressive driving entails...

- » Revved your engine to demonstrate disapproval
- » Prevented from a merge
- » Sudden braking
- » Shouting obscenities or verbal threats

5 categories of aggressive drivers (Dr. John Larson)

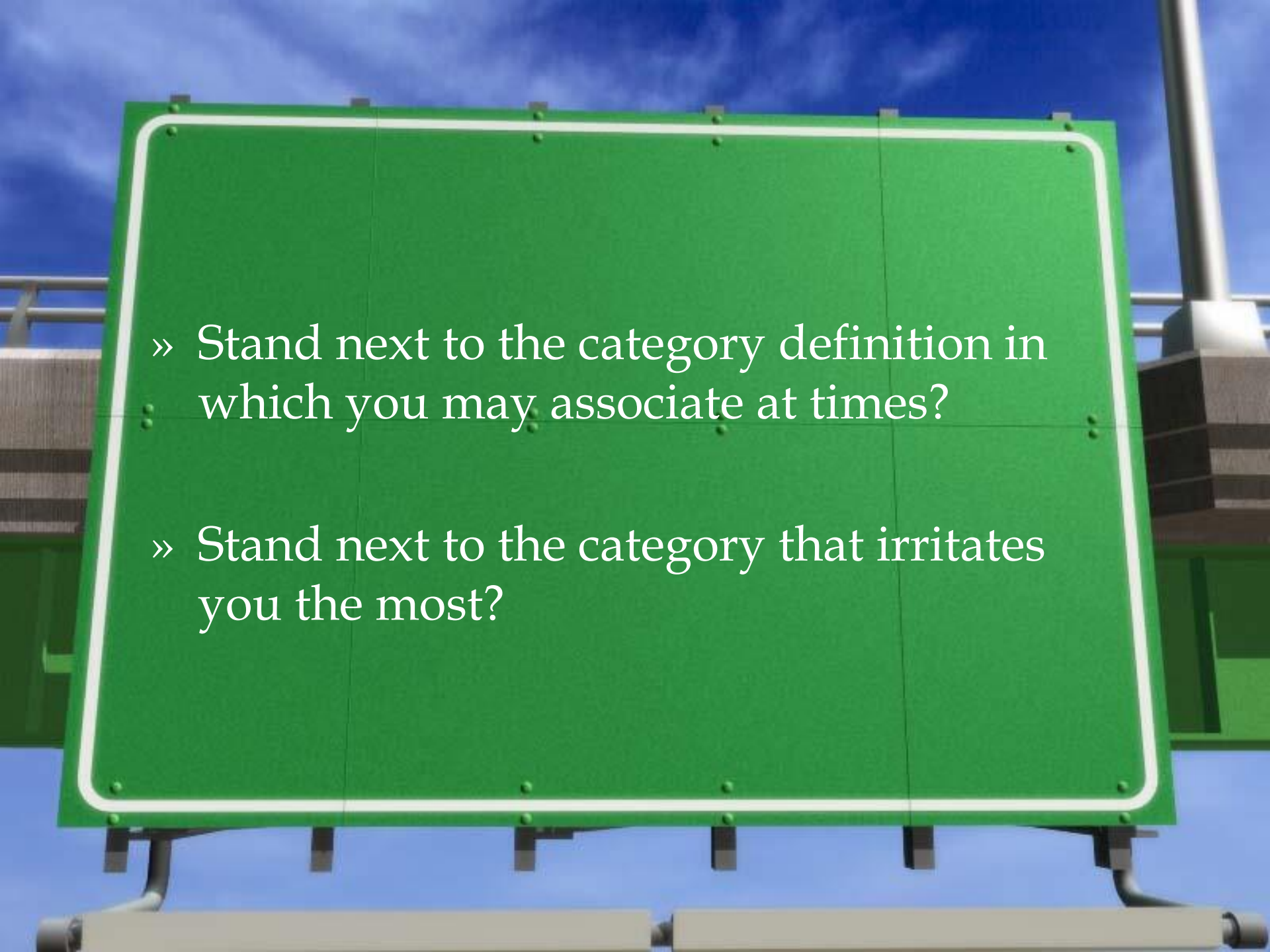
Speeders – Getting to a destination as fast as possible.

Passive Aggressors – View driving events as win/lose situations.

Narcissists – Angered by drivers who do not drive the way they want them to.

Vigilantes – Believing it is their right or duty to teach a lesson.

Competitors – Always wanting to win & be first.

- 
- » Stand next to the category definition in which you may associate at times?
 - » Stand next to the category that irritates you the most?

Aggressive Driving Trigger Events

Dr. Arnold Nerenberg

Feeling Endangered

Being Detained (others drive slowly)

Watching Others Disregard Rules

Feeling the Need To Retaliate