

ABATE of North Idaho's Drivers Education Motorcycle Awareness Class Outline

A few items to keep in mind with regard to this Awareness class:

Unless you are a Certified Motorcycle Riding Instructor caution **MUST** be used when discussing or advising on “how to ride a motorcycle”. This is an automobile Drivers Education Motorcycle Awareness Class **NOT** a Motorcycle Riding Class. For those students that hope to ride after they obtain their Drivers License we would, of course, highly recommend taking a Motorcycle Riding Course either private or state sponsored. Information on these classes is nice to have with you should a student(s) wish to pursue this.

As tempting as it may be to spend much time telling “war stories” about riding it may serve our purpose better if we kept these stories both general in nature and short. Of course a few personal accounts or experiences can be helpful to make specific points that are covered in this class.

Encourage the students to ask questions however be prepared to answer some tough ones now and then. They can and will put you on the spot... be prepared!

Be sensitive to the ideas and or concerns of the Drivers Education Instructor. Remember, we are here to help him/her with their course while relaying information that is very important to us as well. Instructors may not always be comfortable with some of the issues that will be discussed or answers to questions that may be asked. Bottom line... it may be better to adjust your presentation a bit to make the Instructor more comfortable if the alternative is not being allowed to present your information to the class(s) at all.

The following outline is just that, a basic outline. It can be adjusted a little here and there if needed to make the class presenter more comfortable though we would hope that all our classes are similar and *consistent* and cover the same material and thus impart a *common message*.

There are places in the outline that you can jot down personal notes or ideas on the topics covered in the class.

- Introductions

Introduce yourself (and guests, if present) and tell students what motorcycle related organizations that you are a member of... maybe how many years you have been riding and a brief description of what ABATE of North Idaho is and maybe why you are a member.

You can also:

- Ask if any of the students have ever ridden on a motorcycle or:
- hope to ride a motorcycle when they get their license or:
- ask if their parents ride motorcycles.
- _____
- _____

- Outline the important parts of the upcoming class to the students
 - Quiz
 - Watch video
 - Go over the quiz and discuss important issues
 - Answer questions they might have
 - _____
 - _____

- Cite the current relevant statistics and tell them that this is why we are here in this class today.
 - (Insert a *summery* of the most current statistics here. Both national and Idaho state statistics can be cited here.)
 - Trends such as the increased number of female riders can also be noted and emphasized to the class here as well.

- Pass out the Quiz
(give them the appropriate amount of time to finish the quiz. Many of the questions on the quiz will be addressed and answered on the video.)

- Watch the video

- Ask if they have any questions on anything that they saw in the video.

- Go over the quiz ... discuss each question... ask for their reasons for answering the way they did... tell them the correct answer and why.
 - Other points that can be made include:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

The videos main focus is on the need for cars and motorcycles to share the road with each other. It does not touch on the issue of motorcycle only accidents. This topic can be briefly discussed as well.

- Cite and discuss statistics relating to motorcycle only accidents.
 - Cite the most current statistics that are available regarding motorcycle only accidents.
 - You can also:
 - Point out the relationship between the lack of riding experience and the increased chance of being involved in an accident.
 - Note that a rider is at greater risk if he/she is self taught or taught to ride by a family member or friend as opposed to a Motorcycle Riders Course.
 - Mention that in many cases “excessive speed” is the cause of many motorcycle only accidents.
 - Note that *passengers are not free from risk* or responsibilities when riding behind someone.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- Discuss the basic safety equipment that is worn by motorcyclists and why.
 - A good way to begin discussing this subject is to ask the students if they know what road rash is. If they don’t know... tell them. Tell them also what happens to a person that goes to the hospital for road rash.

With road rash in mind this is some of the protective clothing that a motorcyclist wears, including:

- Boots... NOT tennis shoes or sandals
- Long pants, leather chaps or pants... NOT shorts
- Long sleeve shirt and jackets (preferably leather)... NOT plastics or a material that would melt if a rider was to slide along the road in a crash.
- Leather gloves
- Eye protection
- Helmet (mandatory if under the age of 18 in the state of Idaho)

This helmet issue must be handled and discussed with great care! The organization that is being represented here IS NOT AGAINST HELMETS but against adult mandatory helmet laws.

- Other points:
 - Just because you wear protective gear it will not make you invincible and:
 - all the safety equipment in the world will still not prevent an accident.
 - _____
 - _____

- Summery

- Restate what you are asking them to do... look for motorcycles!
- Reassure the students that are thinking about riding in the future that you are not here to scare them away from motorcycling but that you are here to let them know that there are both risks and responsibilities involved with motorcycling that may not be the same as driving a car.
- Thank both them and their Instructor for the opportunity to talk with them about motorcycles.
- Hand out *Share The Road* stickers to those who want one.
- If some of the students expressed an interest in getting their motorcycle endorsement and learning to ride hand out any helpful information you have on Rider Course's such as Idaho's STAR program.
- _____

- After the class:

- Ask the Instructor for their comments or reaction.
- Don't forget the video in the VCR!
- _____
- _____