



Educator Guide

Grades 4-6

Big Idea

Cross This Way is designed to take one class period and features an interactive video component showing the three most common scenarios in which children are struck by vehicles. It is designed to give students the tools they need to protect themselves in the traffic environment and foster discussion about safer pedestrian behavior.

This curriculum is intended for use across the following grade levels: 4th and 5th grades in elementary school and 6th grade in middle school. There is a downloadable workbook available. Students can use the workbook to record their reactions to the video and take notes during class discussions when the video is paused. Although the student workbook is not necessary to teach the lessons, it is a useful tool that can help students write and remember the vital information.

Timeframe

45-50 minutes



Materials

- The *Cross This Way* video is available online at vimeo.com/166569870
- The Cross This Way workbook is available for download at nyc.gov/visionzero

Before You Teach

- **Review the video.** The running time for the video is about 6 minutes. With stops and starts for discussions, it takes about 25 minutes to complete. Throughout the video kids from PS261 in Brooklyn are featured dancing to a catchy rap that is designed to support students' recall of the theme "Before you use the street you gotta check."
- **Please survey the area around the school.** Identify specific dangers or intersections to highlight as concrete examples of locations mentioned in the video.
- **Whenever possible, use specific street names when presenting the video.** The scenarios take place on one larger arterial street, one small residential street and one industrial street to show the many varied areas in our city. Make connections to the kinds of streets that might be similar for your students.

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Let your students know that you will be talking about pedestrian safety in the traffic environment. Explain that they will watch a video that explores this topic. Ask them to identify what they already know about walking in the traffic environment: its risks and dangers and all of the tools that are available for their safety (crosswalks, traffic signals, traffic signs, speed bumps, keeping their head in the game etc.)
- Ask students if they have heard of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero program and explain the campaign to reduce the number of pedestrian deaths in New York City to zero. Connect the Vision Zero program to what they will be learning.
- Note: If you have downloaded the workbook, distribute the workbooks to students at this time. Lead the students through each scenario starting and stopping the video at key points. Proceed as outlined.

Know the Facts

- In New York City, just under 250 people are killed each year and 4,000 people are severely injured in traffic-related crashes. More than a dozen fatalities are children each year.
- Despite these relatively low fatalities numbers, traffic crashes are the leading cause of non-intentional injury-related death for children ages 5 to 14—more than burns or falls for example.
- In every borough injuries to middle school students make up over 50 percent of all student injuries in grades K-8.
- The leading causes of injury to children as pedestrians are:
 - *turning vehicles striking kids when they are crossing in the crosswalk with the signal*
 - *crossing midblock*
 - *crossing at a stop sign or unmarked intersection*
- Until age 14, children are unable to correctly predict the speed of an oncoming vehicle. This means that if they decide to cross the street against the signal or in the middle of the block with a vehicle approaching, they may misjudge whether or not they have enough time to do so.

Cross This Way Video (25 minutes)

Scenario I: Turning Vehicles at an Intersection

- Begin the video and pause at the frame “What went wrong?” Use this moment to ask the students to identify critical aspects of “crossing at the crosswalk with the signal.” Explain that even though pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks, many vehicles turn aggressively despite this. Discuss the inattentive pedestrian behavior and how putting your phone away and looking as you cross will help protect them from injury.
 - *If you are using the workbook, ask the students to identify the risk areas on their worksheets.*
- Advance the video through the list of checks, then pause video when all of the checks are completed to allow students time to copy the list if you are using the workbook. Students often sing along through this portion! Continue the video, alerting students that Scene II is about to begin.



- Stop on the curb**
- Look before you cross**
- Phones away**
- Keep looking**

Scenario II: Midblock Crossing

- Allow the video to play through Scenario II to “What went wrong?” Discuss the “midblock crossing” scenario. This is anytime a person decides to cross in between cars in the middle of the block. It’s important to note that this is actually not allowed by law, but there are some streets where students are taught to do this because it is considered safer than using the crosswalk (as you saw in the scenario above, sometimes it makes children vulnerable).
 - *If you are using the workbook, ask students to circle and mark the areas of concern on their worksheet.*
- Ask, “What’s going on here?” and discuss mid-block crossing. Emphasize that although crossing at intersections is preferred because that is where drivers expect to see pedestrians, many people sometimes cross mid-block, so it is important to know how to do it safely. This is the best time to tell them that they cannot judge how quickly a car is moving, so if there is one approaching, they should wait until the block is clear before crossing.
- As with the first scenario, continue through list of checks, and then pause the video again to allow the students to copy the list. Use this opportunity to emphasize the importance of wearing a helmet, even when skateboarding. Tell the students that free helmets are available from the NYC Department of Transportation through 311. Ask the students to write at the top of their worksheet: “311 – Free Helmets.” Continue the video, alerting students that Scene III is about to begin.



- Stop at the cars**
- Look before you cross**
- Check for cars**
- Cross when it’s clear**
- Wear a helmet**

Scenario III: Stop Sign Intersection

- Play the video through Scenario III to “What went wrong?” and discuss the “Stop Sign controlled intersection” situation. This is where there is a stop sign; children expect drivers to stop at the crosswalk, but often they do not.
 - *If you are using the workbook, students circle and mark the areas of concern on their worksheet.*
- Ask: “What’s happening here?” Students should explain why it’s important to look both ways on one-way streets – looking for backing vehicles, bicyclists etc. Ask: “What is eye contact?” “Why should we wave?” and “How can you be sure you’re seen?” Emphasize that if they think the driver hasn’t seen them and is not at a complete stop, they should wait to cross until the intersection is clear.
- Continue the video through the list of checks, and then allow students to copy the list.
- Encourage the students to enjoy the ‘outtakes’ of the video and to listen to the tips and advice one more time. Let the video play out to the end.



- Stop and look**
- Make eye contact**
- Wave at the driver**
- Be sure you’re seen**

Wrap Up (15 minutes)

Make Connections

- Lead the group in a discussion that will help the students make the connection to their own environment. If possible, connect these scenarios to the streets around the school and point out some of the unique dangers in and around the school and neighborhood.
- Here are some sample questions:
 - *Do these streets look real or fake?
When might you come across these situations?*
 - *Where do you think this applies?
Near school? Near home?*
 - *What are some of the ways to keep yourself safe?*
 - *What are distractions?
How can you manage them?*
 - *Where are the stop signs or signals in your neighborhood?*

Conclusion

- Ask the students to describe the ways that they will use the advice from the kids in the video.
- If you are using the workbook, review the “What Went Right?” exercise. Tell the students to keep track of their own and other’s pedestrian behavior for a week and to check the box each time they or others do something right using the “What Went Right?” worksheet. At the end of the week, they can submit the completed sheet for continued discussion.
- The NYC DOT, recommends ending the session by watching the shortened 4-minute version of the video which is available on the enclosed USB flash drive and online at vimeo.com/166569870



Download the *Cross This Way* lesson plan or student workbook and learn more at nyc.gov/visionzero

For specific questions, contact NYC DOT at safety-ed@dot.nyc.gov

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