

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Buckle Up for Safety: The Importance of Using Seatbelts

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Seatbelts protect passengers during accidents by restraining them in their seats, preventing ejection from the vehicle, and reducing the impact force on the body. For example, in a frontal collision, seatbelts prevent passengers from hitting the windshield or dashboard. In a rollover accident, seatbelts keep passengers inside the vehicle rather than being ejected, which significantly reduces the risk of severe injuries or fatalities.
2. Force distribution in a car crash means that seatbelts help spread the impact force evenly across the chest and hips. In the event of a collision, the seatbelt locks, holding the passenger firmly in place. This prevents the body from moving forward and hitting the steering wheel or dashboard. By distributing the force, seatbelts reduce the risk of severe injuries to these areas, such as chest and abdominal injuries, fractures, or head trauma.
3. Setting a responsible example by consistently wearing a seatbelt influences the behavior of those around you, especially younger passengers or friends. When they see you prioritize safety by wearing a seatbelt, they are more likely to do the same. This creates a culture of safety within your social circles and reinforces the importance of seatbelt use for everyone's well-being.
4. The statement "A matter of seconds but can make all the difference" highlights the idea that putting on a seatbelt takes only a few seconds, but those seconds can determine whether you remain safe or face serious consequences in the event of an accident. It emphasizes that being proactive and buckling up before starting the car is a simple yet crucial action that can save lives and prevent injuries.

