

A Speed Limit Myth

Adapted from "A Speed-Limit Myth Bites the Dust" Trooper Tim Rust, MN State Patrol
West Central Tribune – Willmar, MN; April 8, 2004



Pre-reading

Questions:

- Have you ever been stopped for speeding?
- If yes, did you get a warning or a ticket?
- Is it O.K. to drive over the speed limit?

Definitions:

- Myth – a story or idea that has been made up, not real
- Post – to announce with a sign
- Trooper – a state police officer
- Option – the right to make a choice, or the thing that is chosen
- Squad – a police car

Reading

Question: Someone told me that driving five to ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit is O.K. Last week a trooper gave me a speeding ticket for driving seven miles over the speed limit. It cost me \$103.00! Shouldn't I have gotten a warning?

Answer: Since I am the trooper who gave you the ticket, I'm not sure if you will like my response; but, here it is. A warning is an option, but in your case I thought a ticket was more **appropriate**. I was patrolling in the right lane at the 70 miles per hour posted speed limit. Your car was in the left lane passing many other vehicles. You were gaining on my squad car at well over the posted limit. Then you passed my fully marked squad car. I clocked you going between 77 and 78 miles per hour. When I stopped you, you said, "Going 75 ain't nothing."

So why did you receive a speeding ticket, not a warning? There is nothing in Minnesota law that allows a person to **exceed** the posted speed limit. Speeding is not O.K. for any reason. To **issue** a ticket to someone who is purposely speeding is within the rules of the Minnesota State Patrol.

What more can I say? When you pass my squad car while I'm driving the speed limit, chances are good that I will notice. I hope a ticket will change your mind about speeding.

For every 10 miles per hour over 50 miles per hour, our chances of being killed double if we are in a crash. Speed continues to be the main cause of fatal crashes in Minnesota.

Understanding

1. What does **exceed** mean? _____

2. Why is “A Speed Limit Myth” a good title for this reading? _____

3. How fast was the person who got the ticket going? _____

4. What does **issue** mean? _____

5. When can you speed? _____

6. What does **appropriate** mean? _____

7. What is the main cause of deadly crashes in Minnesota? _____

Writing

Option A: Write about a time when you or someone you know was stopped for speeding.

Option B: What did you learn from this reading?
