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# Self-Driving Cars

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## Videos:

“Are driverless cars ready to hit the road full time?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q01PqUubacA>

(4:37 minutes)

“Artificial Intelligence-Driven Cars Are Here”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-erNogPEho>

(6:50 minutes)

## Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## Analysis Questions:

1. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. In the NBC News video, Bigad Shaban said more than 2,000 self-driving cars are on the road in California. Were you surprised by that number? Why/Why not?
3. John Stossel said: “The self-driving car will change our lives.” What are some ways self-driving cars could improve our lives? Do you think self-driving cars could change your life? Why/Why not?
4. Bigad Shaban said: “If you’re used to being a back seat driver, you might want to find a car with a front seat driver.” What did he mean by this? Would you be comfortable not having control over the route your car is taking? Why/Why not?
5. In the Stossel video, Maxim Lott said Waymo self-driving cars have caused zero deaths and zero injuries. Did this surprise you? Why/Why not?
6. Bigad Shaban said that self-driving cars have been involved in 280 crashes in California over the past five years. Was that number higher or lower than you expected? Why?
7. Maxim Lott said: “The big safety problem is people, not robo-cars.” What did he mean by this? Do you agree with his statement? Why/Why not?
8. Bigad Shaban said self-driving cars “have been confused by emergency scenes, sometimes plowing into caution tape or blocking firetrucks.” How big of a problem is this for self-driving cars? Do you think this problem can be overcome? Why/Why not?

9. Maxim Lott said that while self-driving cars could save many lives, many people hate self-driving cars. Why do you think this is? Is it justified? Why/Why not?
10. In the NBC News video, we saw a Cruise self-driving car come to a full stop in the middle of traffic. Cruise said that this was a better course than proceeding through an unexpected construction zone. Was this an appropriate safety precaution? Why/Why not?
11. In the Stossel video, Alex Roy said: “These ‘what-ifs’ don’t make much sense, because for every technology that’s ever arrived, there was a ‘what-if,’ the ‘what-ifs’ played out....Solutions arrived and everyone moved on.” Should we be optimistic about the future of self-driving cars, even if there are current and potential problems with them? Why/Why not?
12. When Bigad Shaban told a driver that a traffic jam was caused by a self-driving car, she replied: “I’m not surprised.” Why do some people have negative views of self-driving cars? Are their opinions justified? Why/Why not?
13. Maxim Lott said that that some activists put cones on self-driving cars to force them to malfunction. Is this a problem with the cars themselves? Why/Why not?
14. Bigad Shaban said: “With no federal regulations [on self-driving cars], America doesn’t have a national roadmap for safety guidelines.” Do you think the federal government needs to regulate self-driving cars? Why/Why not? What would be the pros and cons?
15. Alex Roy said: “It’s really important that we not...regulate away an industry that is essential for this country to develop.” Do you agree? Do you think self-driving cars should be more regulated or less regulated? Why?
16. Would you ride in a self-driving car? Why/Why not?
17. What are some ways that human drivers are better than artificial intelligence?
18. What are some ways that artificial intelligence is better than human drivers?
19. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
20. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
21. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
22. What else would you like to learn about this topic?