**Final Project Presentation Paper**

**Debasish Panda, DSC640**

Due to recent unfortunate airline crashes, the media has been promoting statistics stating air is no longer a safe way to travel. The news and media outlets have been bombarding the public with reports and figures about the downward trends of airline safety. What was previously thought as the safest way to travel, especially when compared to automobiles, is now being presented as one of the most dangerous to the public. But are any of these claims based on facts? We will be taking data and statistics into consideration and find out what is the truth.

First we will compare the odds of death between automobile (the most commonly used means for transportation) and the aviation industry. Data shows that the odds of encountering a fatal accident while driving an automobile is 1 in 77 where as the odds of a fatal accident is 1 in 200 millions for air travel. This makes air travel one of the safest modes of transportation. To add more evidence to this if we are taking into account both the air travel accidents and fatalities over last 75 years and see what kind of trend it shows, then it is very clear that such cases are following a clear downward trend which means that the number of such cases are in rapid decline.

Aviation technology is advancing to incredible levels. The latest Airbus and Boeing models are built with so many safety features, it would put any automobile manufacture to shame. Airlines are also investing a lot more money in both evolutionary and revolutionary technologies to make air travel safer, economical and environment friendly.

Thus, air travel is the safest mode of transportation. Aside from the number of checks and balances and regulations that airlines and those that work on them need to abide by, airplanes are a marvel of modern technology and engineering. Commercial airplanes have to abide by strict safety standards regardless of the ticket class that the passengers are sitting in. As technology in the industry has advanced to have passenger safety as a principal consideration, airplane seats can withstand 16 times gravity’s force. These seats are also fireproof and do not emit toxic fumes if they were to catch on fire. So, passengers sitting in even the cheapest seats could rest assured knowing that the seats that they own are the safest in the industry.