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# **Bumper Car Sumo Proposal**

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**ABSTRACT** Americans aren't having fun anymore. The weight of capitalism is forcing families to work 60 hour weeks for low, soul-crushing pay. So not only do Americans lack the time for fun, they often lack the funds as well, leading to inefficient forms of entertainment. People with low life satisfaction tend to be unproductive in both their social life and their work life. Not only does this result in reduced profits for businesses, but also creates a downward spiral in which people become increasingly devoid of enjoyment. To combat this atrocity, a new game is being developed that will fill the entertainment void that befall our fellow Americans. The cost and entertainment efficiency of our game will be the most important criteria for success. Costs should be low enough that most people can afford to play, while our game should yield high levels of fun per minute played. Because entertainment value is our primary goal, costs will only have a secondary role in our design process. Battle royale games have become a major hit in the entertainment world due to their competitive nature, as such our team decided to create a game where player-controlled robots attempt to push each other out of an arena. Last player remaining wins. To facilitate gameplay, our robots need to be easily pushed around by other robots. Games that drag on forever with little action are not fun. Controls should be easy to enhance playability, though not too easy as complexity adds to the fun. We need some way to detect game conditions, such as when a robot is out of bounds or when a player wins. This could be done with a human referee, but that would take away immersion of the game. Because some players may not have friends to play with, it is desirable to have some sort of AI to play against. Competitive games are much more enjoyable with worthy opponents. Since cost is a contributing factor to our design, we will want to use existing technologies as much as possible. Robots can be constructed as a two-wheeled platform with wireless modules, similar to a segway. For extra entertainment, a spherical shell could encase the robot, reducing its traction on the play surface. A player's phone can be used as a controller if a suitable app is developed. This negates the cost of constructing our own controllers at the slight cost of reduced playability. Computer vision libraries could allow us to track the location of each robot if painted differently. Exact positioning solves the problem of detecting game conditions, plus giving us plenty of information to use for a basic AI. Our goal, above all else, is that our game is fun. Playtesting will be a major component of our design process, rethinking aspects of the game if we decide it is not fun. Costs will be mitigated, but entertainment value will never be sacrificed for savings. Smiles and laughs from players is our primary measure of success.

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