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ENG 211-04

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Research Proposal for the Benefits of Self-Driving Cars Over Traditional Cars

Self-driving cars have the potential to revolutionize transportation as we know it today. This leap in technology could be comparable to our transition from horses to motorized vehicles, and we are likely only a few short years away from it becoming mainstream. Self-driving cars, much like computing as a field, have advanced at an extremely rapid pace. The first practical demonstration of self-driving cars in the United States occurred in 2007 (Weber), and they only become more useful as the technology behind them matures. Self-driving cars hold many benefits over traditional cars, and it will touch many aspects of our lives in a positive way.

Driving a car is inherently dangerous. We depend on others to follow traffic laws, and a lapse in our attention from the task of driving can result in a fatal accident. Self-driving cars help to mitigate these issues. A computer cannot be distracted, and they can dedicate themselves to the tasks of driving while we focus on things less mundane than driving. A computer cannot make the decision to drive drunk, and they do not require a trained driver to operate it. They mark a significant advancement in both the safety and utility of automobiles.

I would like to research self-driving cars and to see the impact they may have on the United States. Specifically, I would be interested in researching safety, the obsoleteness of transportation related professions such as taxi drivers, truck drivers, etc., the adoption of laws permitting self-driving cars, and the major players in the self-driving car industry. Ideally I will convince my reader that self-driving cars are a reality and will be widely available within the next ten years – and that they will represent a large shift in the lives of those living in the United States. My focus will be towards those in the United States who are aware or unaware of the existence of self-driving cars, and who may be in doubt of the technology.

Works Cited

Weber, Marc. *Where to? A History of Autonomous Vehicles* . 8 May 2014. <https://www.computerhistory.org/atchm/where-to-a-history-of-autonomous-vehicles/>.