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English 1

Research Essay Working Introduction

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Introduction

For over 100 years, cars were meant to be a piece of machinery specifically designed to be operated by humans. We have become so normalized with the idea of driving vehicles that it almost seems impossible to imagine a world where we didn’t. That theoretical world, however, may just become reality. In recent years, there has been an influx in the interest of level 5 autonomous vehicles (AVs) that can essentially drive themselves without human interaction or surveillance. Many car manufactures are already implementing some form of autopilot in many of their new models and are looking to break into the untapped market of autonomous vehicles. Many are optimistic of the benefits AVs can bring to the world, such as helping the disabled/elderly and reducing the environmental impact of driving. Some are so optimistic that they believe that we will live in a fully autonomous driving world in just a few years. With the increasing publicity of AVs, it is hard not to get caught up in the hype. However, the perceived benefits of autonomous vehicles may just be an illusion hiding the disadvantages of AVs. The risks of having a primitive human-free vehicle around people and the surprising negative ecological impact of AVs raises uncertainty over the future of autonomous vehicles. The precariousness of the autonomous future makes it more than reasonable to argue that in the future, AVs will see limited growth across the nation, with most of the growth occurring in urban areas.