

# ISTE 110: Ethics in Computing

## Research Paper on Autonomous Cars and Car Ownership

### 1. Introduction

- (a) Autonomous cars have been in the mind of researchers and engineers since the mid-20th century. The commercialization of autonomous cars will make roads safer and streamline inner-city transportation, but may also revolutionize the idea of car ownership in the future.
- (b) How will autonomous vehicle fleets affect the concept of car ownership in the future?
- (c) In the next century, car ownership will decrease as the commercialization of autonomous cars will allow for shared ownership of a car and on-demand transportation at the click of a button.

### 2. Ethical Theory: Utilitarianism/Rawlsianism

- (a) Services like Uber, Airbnb, Lyft, and Sidecar are part of a new idea of a “sharing economy”.
- (b) The Guardian
- (c) Knowledge Insead
- (d) The Kenan Institute for Ethics
- (e) Adweek
- (f) Spectrum IEEE

### 3. Body Paragraphs

- (a) Context: Carnegie Mellon has been experimenting with autonomous and semi-autonomous cars since the 1980s. Now, companies like Tesla have made cars nearly completely self-drivable using advanced arrays of sensors and processors. Autonomous cars can now be connected to the internet and sent to locations via an app.
- (b) Existing Arguments
  - i. Already, companies like Uber are challenging the concepts of car ownership by providing readily accessible transportation at the click of a button.
    - A. Business Insider

- ii. Combining this idea with fleets of autonomous cars would only accelerate this social change.
  - A. Business Insider
- (c) Your Argument
  - i. Autonomous cars will be widely integrated into society in the near future anyway simply due to the fact that they are safer and will reduce accidents by a significant percentage.
    - A. Veritasium
    - B. Washington Post
  - ii. Fleets of autonomous cars and shared car ownership will prove to be cheaper and more convenient than owning a car. An on-demand service model will make transportation easier to access and phase out issues such as parking space.
    - A. Business Insider
    - B. Slate
- 4. The integration of autonomous cars into a city's infrastructure will revolutionize concepts of ownership regarding cars. Transportation can eventually be turned into a public service that is cheaper and more accessible than personal ownership of a car.
  - (a) Summary of Main Points
    - i. Companies like Uber are already changing the idea of car ownership.
    - ii. Autonomous cars will be adopted anyway because they decrease road accidents and are many times safer.
    - iii. Fleets of autonomous cars providing an on demand service model will make transportation more accessible and cheaper, solving problems like parking spaces.