

“SKILLS” Debate (FALL 2023): Sample Arguments

Topic: Self-Driving Vehicles.

[INTRODUCTION (PRO)]

Hello, my name is... [Name].

today, we will discuss:
Self-Driving Vehicles.

My partner and I believe...
Self-Driving Vehicles are desirable.

To begin, let's discuss: Improving Safety.

[ARGUMENT (PRO): IMPROVING SAFETY]

Self-Driving Vehicles will... improve safety

Because... they can avoid distractions and react faster than humans.

For example...

1.) *First...*

[T] **Avoiding Accidents Caused by Distractions**

[S] *According to...* Women Auto Know, October 3, 2017

<https://www.womenautoknow.com/pros-and-cons-of-autonomous-cars/>

[F] *It states...* Distractions are a common cause of traffic accidents because human drivers are looking at their phone instead of the road. Yet, self-driving vehicles won't have this problem.

[C] *This means...* using self-driving vehicles will protect millions of people by reducing the number of accidents caused by distracted drivers.

2.) *Also...*

[T] **Faster Reactions Reduce Accidents**

[S] *According to...* National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., Last Accessed: Oct. 2023

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/technology-innovation/automated-vehicles-safety>

[F] *It states...* Self-driving vehicles can reduce traffic accidents by strictly following the rules and because they are equipped with Artificial Intelligence (or A.I.) and sensors allowing it to have a much faster reaction time compared to human drivers.

[C] *This means...* using self-driving vehicles will make millions of lives safer for both drivers and pedestrians as well.

Therefore... Self-Driving Vehicles WILL improve safety.

"Thank you"

“SKILLS” Debate (FALL 2023): Sample Arguments

Topic: Self-Driving Vehicles.

[INTRODUCTION (REBUTTAL-CON)]

"In this speech, I will refute ONE of my opponent's arguments..."

[REBUTTALS (CON): vs. IMPROVING SAFETY]

They said... Self-Driving Vehicles will improve safety.

We say... Self-Driving Vehicles will NOT improve safety.

Because...

1.) *First...*

[T] **Unsafe During Poor Weather Conditions**

[S] *According to...* Vittana.org, April 1, 2019

<https://vittana.org/20-pros-and-cons-of-driverless-cars>

[F] *It states...* self-driving vehicles suffer from technology failures when driving in poor weather conditions such as fog, rain, or snow.

[C] *This means...* using self-driving vehicles will put millions of lives at risk due to its inability to operate safely during poor weather.

2.) *Also...*

[T] **Causing Several Accidents**

[S] *According to...* NBC News, October 4, 2023

<https://www.nbcnews.com/video/a-self-driving-car-was-involved-in-a-collision-with-a-san-francisco-pedestrian-194402885982>

[F] *It states...* In San Francisco, self-driving vehicles have been involved in several accidents making the local government decide to reduce the overall number of autonomous vehicles there.

[C] *This means...* using self-driving vehicles has already put millions of lives at risk due to the number of accidents it has been involved in.

Therefore... Self-Driving Vehicles will NOT improve safety.

"Thank you"

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[INTRODUCTION (CON)]

Hello, my name is... [Name].

today, we will discuss:
Self-Driving Vehicles.

My partner and I believe...
Self-Driving Vehicles are undesirable.

To begin, let's discuss: Threatening Security.

[ARGUMENT (CON): THREATENING SAFETY]

Self-Driving Vehicles will... threaten safety

Because... They won't work properly under certain weather conditions and have caused many accidents.

For example...

1.) *First...*

[T] **Unsafe During Poor Weather Conditions**

[S] *According to...* Vittana.org, April 1, 2019

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[F] *It states...* self-driving vehicles suffer from technology failures when driving in poor weather conditions such as fog, rain, or snow.

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[C] *This means...* using self-driving vehicles has already put millions of lives at risk due the number of accidents it has been involved in.

Therefore... Self-Driving Vehicles WILL threaten safety.

"Thank you"

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[REBUTTALS (PRO): vs. THREATENING SAFETY]

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Because...

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[C] *This means...* using self-driving vehicles will protect millions of people by reducing the number of accidents caused by distracted drivers.

2.) *Also...*

[T] **Reducing Traffic Accidents**

[S] *According to...* National Highway Traffic Safety Admin., Last Accessed: Oct. 2023

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[F] *It states...* Self-driving vehicles can reduce traffic accidents by strictly following the rules and because they are equipped with Artificial Intelligence (or A.I.) and sensors allowing it to have a much faster reaction time compared to human drivers.

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