

Surveyor: _____

Respondent: _____

Date: _____

SELF-DRIVING CARS

Opinions

- ☐ Fully automated self-driving vehicles will be a reality within a few decades - no need for driver's licenses or steering wheels.
- ☐ Transportation will be more affordable: people will be able to share driver-less vehicles and travel anywhere on-demand.
- ☐ Self-driving cars will be the norm, but there will be locations and circumstances where the human driver must be in control.
- ☐ Self-driving cars will be common, but a significant percentage of cars will still be human-driven. To take advantage of fully-automated driving, there will be special lanes and zones dedicated to self-driven vehicles (like HOV lanes).
- ☐ The vision for fully-automated self-driving vehicles will not be realized. People will not get over the psychological hurdle of machines killing people. Machines will never be better than humans at recognizing unusual situations.
- ☐ _____

Beliefs

- ☐ Will be safer. Humans make mistakes, drive distracted and intoxicated and have slow reaction times in emergencies.
- ☐ Have significant technical risks. Poor weather and visibility or unpredictable surroundings can "confuse" the automation systems.
- ☐ Will be more efficient, reducing traffic congestion and increasing average speeds.
- ☐ May be too expensive for everyone to afford.
- ☐ Will require a lot of computing power and network connectivity to communicate with other vehicles and network control systems.
- ☐ Will free up time for humans to do more valuable activities.
- ☐ Can enable people with disabilities to be more self-reliant.
- ☐ Will change car ownership and reduce the number of cars on the road.
- ☐ Will dramatically reduce traffic fatalities, but people may never accept that machines will make decisions that kill people.
- ☐ Will take a long time to perfect and be adopted, so our roadways will have a mix of self-driving and "regular" cars. It only takes a few humans to mess up an automated system.
- ☐ Will require a lot of education and training for drivers to understand the limitations of the technology, pay attention, and take over the controls at a moment's notice.
- ☐ Will require new legal and ethical rules for liability in accidents and how much to blame machines and their manufacturers.
- ☐ Can be a threat to privacy and security by tracking people and their actions.
- ☐ Will enable criminals to hack location information, steal cars, disrupt traffic, kidnap people, and use cars as ballistic weapons.
- ☐ Will impact vehicle-related jobs, such as delivery, buses, taxis, and long-haul trucking.
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Call to Action

What will our great-great-grandchildren say about us?

Imagine the year 2070. We may not be there, but our children or grandchildren probably will be. Their grandchildren will ask about the olden days, back in the early 21st century, saying, “What were they thinking? Didn’t grown-ups know back then how bad this was going to be?”

These survey topics may seem vast and impersonal. We may shrug and claim that our actions as individuals don’t matter. As one of more than 8 billion people, it’s easy for us to hide in the herd and dodge blame. However, these topics become personal, and we feel more accountable, when we realize that our direct descendants will judge us for our actions and beliefs.

Our grandchildren will be caught flat-footed – or worse, misrepresent our beliefs! – when their kids confront them about our generation’s legacy. Don’t let *your* grandchildren throw you under the bus when talking to *their* grandkids in the year 2070. (Unless you deserve to be blamed for the state of the world in the late 21st century.) Ensure your descendants have an accurate record of your thoughts and beliefs. These surveys are the simplest way to do that.

Guidance

Each survey is meant to cover a wide range of beliefs about a single topic without being biased. Respondents should be able to find a few comments that they agree with. There are blank lines for respondents to write-in their own beliefs. If respondents do not have clearly defined beliefs on this topic, then that uncertainty may lead to some healthy research and introspection before they feel ready to share their beliefs with posterity.

This survey may inspire you to archive hard copy versions of other documents and photos that are important to you. We all have thousands of digital files and images stored in the cloud or on backup drives. Consider storing physical copies of key items from your life: birth and marriage certificates, concert tickets, family portraits, and this survey! Use acid-free paper (most ordinary copy paper will do). Keep items away from sunlight, heat, humidity – a closet is better than the attic or garage. How about a time capsule?

For the Respondent

Review the survey. You should be able to find yourself on the page in one or more statements that you agree with and check them off. Feel free to write-in some of your own opinions and beliefs. Perhaps add a personal note. Then, have the document be stored in a way that a future generation will discover it.

For the Surveyor

Take the time to sit down with people who matter to you, especially older folks. Don’t confront them. Instead, work with them to capture their point of view. Archive the document in a way that someone will be able to access it in the year 2070.

Good luck