Name: _____
Period: _____

ARTICLES AND OPINIONS

ARTICLE 1 — SAFETY & ACCIDENT RESPONSIBILITY (NEUTRAL INFORMATIONAL)

Title: *Who Is Responsible When an Autonomous Vehicle Crashes?*

Autonomous vehicles use sensors, cameras, and AI decision-making systems to navigate roads. But when a self-driving car is involved in an accident, assigning responsibility becomes complicated. Some experts argue that the "backup human driver" should be responsible because they are expected to take control when the system fails. Others claim that manufacturers should be held accountable, since the technology made the driving decisions. Recent case studies show that courts are still debating how liability should be divided, and new laws are emerging to clarify the roles of drivers, companies, and AI systems.

ARTICLE 2 — PASSENGER VS. PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION (ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY)

Title: *Should a Self-Driving Car Protect Its Passenger or a Pedestrian?*

One of the most challenging ethical questions in AI is how autonomous vehicles should behave in unavoidable crash situations. Some believe the car should always protect its passengers—the people who purchased and trusted the technology. Others argue that the car must prioritize the greater good, even if it means risking the passenger's safety. Philosophers often refer to this as a modern version of "the trolley problem," but with real-world implications as self-driving cars become more common.

ARTICLE 3 — DATA PRIVACY & SURVEILLANCE CONCERNS (CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE)

Title: *Self-Driving Cars: Convenience or Constant Surveillance?*

Self-driving cars collect enormous amounts of data—from GPS locations to camera footage, voice commands, and driving patterns. Critics warn that this information could be misused by companies, insurance providers, or even hackers. Privacy advocates argue that users do not always know what information is collected or how long it is stored. While companies promise that data collection improves safety and performance, privacy experts demand stricter regulations to protect consumers.

OPINION PIECE 1 — PRO-AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (SUPPORTIVE ARGUMENT)

Title: *Why Self-Driving Cars Could Make Roads Safer*

Supporters of autonomous vehicles say the technology has the potential to drastically reduce accidents caused by human error—such as texting while driving, drunk driving, and fatigue. They argue that sensors react faster than the human brain, and AI systems don't get distracted or emotional. While no technology is perfect, advocates believe that even a small reduction in crashes could save thousands of lives every year.

OPINION PIECE 2 — ANTI-AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (SKEPTICAL ARGUMENT)

Title: *Why We Should Be Cautious About Self-Driving Technology*

Skeptics of autonomous vehicles argue that the technology is being rushed. They point out that self-driving systems still struggle in bad weather, construction zones, and unpredictable real-world scenarios. Additionally, accidents involving autonomous vehicles reveal that sensors can misread objects or fail to detect pedestrians. Critics believe human oversight is still essential, and that society must address legal and ethical challenges before fully relying on AI-driven transportation.

VIDEO SUGGESTIONS (SAFE FOR CLASSROOM USE)

(Descriptions provided—no external links required. You may search for similar content on YouTube or assign students to view teacher-approved videos.)

1. **"How a Self-Driving Car Sees the World"** (Educational Animation)
Explains sensors, LIDAR, object detection, and why AI sometimes misinterprets surroundings.
2. **"The Ethics of Autonomous Cars"** (Short Documentary)
Covers the passenger vs. pedestrian dilemma, accident responsibility, and human vs. machine decision-making.
3. **"Can AI Make Better Driving Decisions Than Humans?"** (News Report)
Shows real examples of AV accidents and interviews with engineers, critics, and safety officials.