

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break** selects an article from **Sunday, June 19, 2016** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**Article: Skeptics of self-driving cars span generations (Business, D8)**

## Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

- **What do you know about self-driving car? Would you feel comfortable inside a self-driving car?**

**Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

A. agnostic	1. to depend on someone or something
B. autonomous	2. a strong dislike or disinclination.
C. aversion	3. Something that's done automatically, without thought
D. beneficiaries	4. an act of giving one's public approval or support to someone or something.
E. endorsement	5. the state or quality of being romantic.
F. gerontologist	6. dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest.
G. hesitant	7. acting independently or having the freedom to do so.
H. monotonous	8. tentative, unsure, or slow in acting or speaking.
I. qualms	9. someone who does not know, or believes that it is impossible to know (usually related to religion)
J. reflexive	10. unwilling and hesitant; disinclined.
K. reliant	11. is the study of the social, psychological, cognitive, and biological aspects of aging.
L. reluctant	12. a person or group that receives benefits, profits, or advantages

M. romanticism	13. an uncomfortable feeling when you doubt if you are doing the right thing
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### Comprehension

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, where did most engineers rank their comfort with self-driving cars?
2. At what points did Scott Fischer say that he would let a self-driving car take over?
3. What was the age range of the MIT study's participants?
4. What type of technology did people over 50 express the most interest in?
5. According to the MIT study, why are older participants hesitant to give up total control?
6. A Nielsen automotive study of participants 8 to 18 years old, found that there was equal interest in buying a self-driving car from a technology company such as Google or Apple as there was in purchasing what?
7. Two-thirds of consumers in the Autotrader survey acknowledged what?
8. What would roughly 3 out of 5 drivers of high school age prefer to do?
9. The various studies reflect a sharper divide between those who...

### Additional Activities & Discussion Questions

1. Visit the google website and watch this video about the google self-driving car: <https://www.google.com/selfdrivingcar/>. How do you feel about self-driving cars? Would you buy a self-driving car from Google? Why or why not? What are some potential negatives about self-driving cars? What are some potential positives? Do you think there is a generational difference in how people view self-driving cars? See if you can figure out who else is making self-driving cars. How do they compare?
2. Conduct your own research on the positive and negatives of self-driving cars. Then choose one of the following options and present it to your class:
  - a. Make a commercial or advertisement to convince people to buy a self-driving car. Make sure to support what you say with facts!
  - b. Make a public service announcement to convince people not to buy a self-driving car. Make sure to support what you say with facts!

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.  
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### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

- A. 9
- B. 7
- C. 2
- D. 12
- E. 4
- F. 11
- G. 8
- H. 6
- I. 13
- J. 3
- K. 1
- L. 10
- M. 5.

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

1. Most experts gave the concept a 3 or lower.
2. When he was tired on a long drive or needed to read an email.
3. From 50 to 69
4. Technology that alerts drivers to vehicles in their blind spots.
5. They are worried that they will become overly reliant on the technology at the expense of their driving skills.
6. A car from an automaker like Ford or General Motors
7. That they would not feel confident enough in a self-driving car to take their eyes off of the road.
8. Drive themselves
9. Love to drive and those who find it a stressful activity.

