

. In groups, choose one of the following forums, read the entry given and continue the series. Each student in the group will provide a further entry, based on the ongoing contributions.

Forum 1:

If electric cars were to entirely replace gas-powered vehicles, what changes might we see on a domestic and global scale?

Participant 1

If it happened, on a global scale we could observe the drop of oil price and all the status quo build around it, with the changing of most powerful nations. The board of power would change as well the economy model from many countries that have their economy's oil based. Consequently, the cheapening of plastic products (maybe more plastic waste), a rise on air quality as on the health.

Forum 2:

Some people suggest that given the problems with nuclear fission-based electricity, we should invest in fusion technology, which involves light nuclei combining to produce heavier nuclei. This is the process that powers the Sun, as well as hydrogen bombs. What does the case of nuclear fission power tell us about how we should think about nuclear fusion reactors as a source of electricity?

Participant 1

Given the imminent threat to the planet, the environment and civil society from climate change, carbon reduction and carbon sequestration effort in all major human activity should be prioritized. The most expedient and economic form of harnessing the power of the Sun towards that goal is through distributed and utility-grade solar power. The 21st Century energy policy would do better to prioritize harvesting the power from the Sun rather than chase after manufacturing its power on Earth. Study and research are fine. However, we should not repeat the mistake of commercializing atomic power without guaranteeing that necessary protections are possible and in place and ethical questions addressed. In the meantime, go solar full tilt.

Forum 3:

How are computer viruses similar to real viruses?

Participant 1

I think they are similar by the thing that are able to be rapidly infected. Computer viruses were spread very quickly, which is very similar with real viruses.

Forum 4:

Many people believe that autonomous cars will save a lot of lives—tens of thousands every year in the U.S. alone. Does that fact reduce the need to think about rare ethical dilemmas where a few innocent people may be injured or harmed? That is, does the greater good or utility excuse any bad outcomes? Can you think of scenarios—whether about robot cars or anything else—where the greater good does not justify a bad action, such as a few wrongful deaths?

Participant 1

While I realize this in some way may "break" the thought experiment, it seems to me that the autonomous car shouldn't of been following so close to the truck so that it had to "choose" between hitting debris vs. swerving.

We see this in driving instructions as "safe following distance", which varies with speed. The purpose of the safe following distance is so that you have enough time to stop even if the vehicle in front of you comes to a complete stop as quickly as it possibly can.

This is relevant because unless debris is affected by air resistance enough to accelerate it extremely quickly from its carrying vehicle, conservation of momentum will cause it to still travel mostly in a similar vector as the carrying vehicle (relative to the ground but slowing down due to friction); which means the only way you can "assume" beforehand to avoid hitting it is treating it as part of the same vehicle.

Forum 5:

How important is the use of solar energy in mitigating the effects of the global warming we are experiencing?

Participant 1

It is one method of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels

Forum 6:

How would you define creativity in a robot? In the Arts? In other domains? Do you think robots will ever be creative? In what ways? Assuming robots could and would become creative – what do think are the benefits and risks to humanity? Do you think the benefit outweigh the risk? Vice versa?

Participant 1

This is the most stupid thing that i have herd of yet. They are feeding a valuation by mankind into the system, making the computer remix stuff and are astonished that the computer assembles a remix that gives them the emotional effects they also experienced from the input they gave to the computer. Really folks? Are we devolving yet? So how does the computer create something completely new and creative without being dependent on the opinion of a group of people and their preferences. Really i can not express how embarassed i am about mankind, thinking we really have something like Artificial Intelligence or creativity here.

2.2. Once all the entries have been submitted, each group will check that everything makes sense and agree on the final version.

2.3. All the contributions will be shown on the projector and feedback and discussion from all the participants will be required.

2.4. LET'S RECAP: together, let's build a final mind map with the main points of today's contents:

