



Pros and Cons

News from Thursday, December 14th Listen to the Episode ▷

Last month, nearly 2 million Tesla cars were recalled in the United States. U.S. safety regulators took them off the road after an investigation into nearly 1,000 crashes involving self-driving Tesla vehicles. They found that the Autopilot system, which can automatically steer, brake, and accelerate, gave drivers a false sense of security. At least one crash occurred when the driver was sitting in the backseat! As a result of the recall, Tesla will install more warning systems, but some safety experts believe even more changes are needed.

What are the pros and cons of allowing cars with driverless technology on the

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Is a potato a vegetable? Federal dietary experts, who decide what can be served in school cafeterias, are considering changing the way potatoes are categorized. Currently, potatoes are classified as vegetables, which scientists say is botanically accurate. But they may soon be reclassified as a grain, like rice and wheat. That has caused considerable debate. The National Potato Council wants potatoes to remain a vegetable, as does the grain industry, which does not want the competition! Across the pond in Great Britain, the country's Health Council determined years ago that - nutritionally - potatoes do not count toward the daily recommended intake of vegetables. The US decision is expected in 2025.

pitch for a change to your school's breakfast or lunch program that would help students make nutritious choices. Explain your idea, and include at least three reasons that you think your school should adopt it.



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes learned a lesson in sportsmanship recently. In a game against the Buffalo Bills, Mahomes had an unusually fiery reaction to a penalty call that reversed a potentially game-winning touchdown. Mahomes has expressed regret for his outburst and acknowledged that the referees' call was correct. He said he plans to accept whatever penalty the NFL chooses to impose.

Imagine that you are in charge of a sports league. How would you encourage respect among players and towards referees? Think about what sort of behaviors you would want to see from your players, and write a plan for how to promote those behaviors. Your plan could include rules, agreements, lessons, traditions, o other creative ideas.								



One of the world's most respected spy agencies, the United Kingdom's GCHQ, put out its "secret code" challenge for kids last month. As part of an annual tradition, the intelligence organization included seven complex puzzles in its annual Christmas card. This year's puzzles, targeted toward kids aged 11 - 18, are said to be the toughest yet.

Design a puzzle challenge for your friends and family! In the space below, create of puzzles or series of puzzles for them to solve. Your puzzles could include numbers, words, or symbols. Be sure to have the answers ready for your puzzlers to check!								



Test It! News from Thursday, December 7th Listen to the Episode ▷

Doritos has created a new crunch-muffling technology: Doritos Silent. The software, created with artificial intelligence, silences the sound of crunching chips for gamers, remote workers, or anyone who uses headphones. According to the Washington Post, the program works by recognizing crunching sounds and blunting them. Company officials say creating Doritos Silent proved much easier than trying to create a new chip with less crunch and also achieved a compromise, allowing gamers to enjoy their favorite snacks without annoying others.

What do you think is the loudest food? Choose 3 - 5 foods and, with a friend or family member, design an experiment to determine which food is the loudest when crunched. Be sure to include a fair way for participants to assess the volume; for example, you might measure how far away you must stand from the person who's eating before you can no longer hear them.	
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