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Writing Assignment 3: Evaluation

if you did not follow the assignment or the outline.

Are Hybrid Cars worth the Money

With the rising gas prices in our country, people have started turning their attention toward Hybrid Cars. Hybrid cars offer more miles per gallon to the consumer, in effect saving them money on gas. So far, everything about hybrid cars has been good.

However, Hybrid cars sometimes cost as much as \$10,000 more than their non-hybrid twins do. So while hybrid cars mostly get rave reviews in the press, one could see that after looking into the research, they are really not cost-effective at all, yet people continue purchasing them for some of the following reasons: ^{to} you can save money over time, ^{to} reduce air pollution and ^{to} reduce dependency on foreign oil exchanges.

First, hybrids help a consumer save more gas. Hybrid cars have an automatic shutoff of its gasoline engine when the car comes to a complete stop and then runs off the electric motor. You will actually think that the vehicle has turned off ^{RO} but it actually has not. The car is actually running ^{ww} of the battery. "A hybrid car gets 5 miles per gallon better mileage on average than a standard gasoline-powered vehicle. In addition, because hybrid cars run in part on alternative fuel sources, they do not need gasoline as frequently; cutting overall gasoline consumption and cost" (Donie Conway). Car insurance providers ^{ww} offer discounted insurance rates to hybrid drivers in some states. Hybrids have a short battery ^{ww RO} life and their parts are expensive and not easily accessible.

As hybrids become more popular, this may eventually change. Each year car manufacturers are thinking of ways to improve hybrids. "If you drive almost entirely in the city, you can expect 51 miles per gallon from the Prius. In the Corolla, that number falls to 28 mpg with the base model or 30 mpg with the economy-minded Corolla LE Eco. With today's average gas price of around \$3.52 per gallon, making up the \$5,000 difference will take a while. In fact, plan on driving more than 90,000 miles before the Prius becomes cheaper than the Corolla" (Auto Trader). Consumers do not buy hybrid cars for their style or speed; they are just looking for a good way to save money.

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Hybrid cars are more environmentally friendly compared to standard cars. Hybrids have a second electric motor that makes them burn less fuel than a standard car. Vehicles that run on oil and gas are very harmful ^{to} the environment. Vehicles are continually releasing chemicals, pollutants, and other wastes. The different types of fumes that may be released into the air are nitrogen gas, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide. These types of pollutants are not good for the environment. Hybrid cars do not produce as much toxins ^{as} like ^a standard car ^{does}. A standard car that is idling, stopping, and accelerating produces more toxins in the atmosphere than a hybrid car ^{produces} would. Hybrids function on mostly electric power in all these conditions. Overall, hybrid cars produce less air pollution than standard cars. Hybrid cars are better for Earth and the environment, because they do not let off as many toxins as gasoline cars do.

With the price of foreign oil rising, some people have made it their goal to try to stop using as much foreign oil. "Toyota President & COO Yoshi Inaba said some fairly sobering things at the Economic Club of Chicago earlier this month. Citing a recent study, Mr. Inaba proclaimed, "If everyone in the U.S. drove a Prius, this may reduce our

countries dependence on foreign oil by 70%!"(Perlman). "Using a hybrid vehicle helps to take the pressure off our current oil sources, causing the fuel to last longer and reduce the need to find new sources of oil in nature. Hybrids are the first step in moving away from oil in search of other energy resources" (Sherwood). Buying hybrid cars is just a start to reducing our dependency on foreign oil. "All electric vehicles qualify for a \$7,500 federal tax credit" (Anderson 1).

Hybrid cars cost more and are a lot safer for the earth and environment. ^{Two} A few reasons a consumer may decide to purchase a hybrid car; ^e helping to improve the environment, ^o and ^o having to make fewer stops at a gas station. No, hybrid cars will not end foreign oil dependency, but may help. The consumer can feel good that over time they have saved money and also helped with not adding anymore pollution to the environment. In today's economy hybrid cars are overpriced. Consumers may think they are saving, but in all actuality the manufacturers and car dealerships know they are overpriced. Car dealerships are not going to let consumers know that, ^{we} ^o they want to make a sale. The price of hybrid cars should be just over \$5,000.00 of the same model car that is a non-hybrid. "An HMP system lowers fuel consumption, reduces airborne pollution and is energy efficient" (Bhatnager 83-87).

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