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### Reading Response 1, Florman Ch. 8

Florman begins the chapter by introducing the philosophy of existentialism and the philosophical climate of the US after WWII. He talks about how the word “existential” has become distorted and overused, finding its way in to everyday speech when someone wants to talk about the innermost human spirit. Florman argues that engineering fulfills the existentialist search for inner satisfaction. He explains the idea that thinking is better than doing and that it originates back to the Greeks. Florman relates Greek and Christian beliefs that people should not be concerned with material goods because they do not endure. Excerpts from Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey are used to show that people love things and that they were materialist. People have always loved the creation of things and they take pride in the things they create. Florman also comes to the same conclusion from excerpts from The Old Testament. Showing that people find objects as “the subject of wonder and delight”. In The Old Testament it says one shouldn’t take pride in ones accomplishments while neglecting god’s commandments but should instead further the desires of god. Florman explores the idea that society has always placed value in materials and objects as well as the creation of those objects. “Why should we not still be able to delight in a well-made object or in an elegant solution to a problem?” asks Florman. People do take delight well-made objects, they take pride in them and they give their life meaning. Engineering is shown to always have been existentially fulfilling and it will continue to do so.