

## *100 Questions*

### **ENGR 2595 TECHNICAL DESIGN THINKING**

Make a list of a hundred questions that are important to you.<sup>1</sup> Your list can include any kind of question as long as it's something you deem significant; anything from, "How can I save more money?" or "How can I have more fun" to "What is the meaning and purpose of my existence?" and "How can I best serve the Creator?".

Do the entire list in one sitting if you can. Otherwise, just come back to it until you get one hundred. Write quickly; don't worry about spelling, grammar, or even repeating the same question in different words (recurring questions will alert you to emerging themes). Why a hundred questions? The first twenty or so will be 'off the top of your head'. In the next thirty or forty, themes often begin to emerge. And, in the latter part of the second half of the list you are likely to discover unexpected but profound material.

When you have finished, read through your list and highlight the themes that emerge. Consider the emerging themes without judging them. Are most of your questions about relationships? Academics? Fun? Money? The meaning of life?

#### **Top Ten Questions**

Review your list of a hundred questions. Choose the ten that seem most significant. Rank them in importance from one to ten. (Of course, you can add new questions or change the order at any time.) Do not attempt to answer them right now; you've done enough just putting them in writing in a place where you can easily find them.

**Submitting the assignment:** bring your list to class on the assignment due date (see UVaCollab); we will discuss experiences with the exercise and things we learned about ourselves.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from 'How To Think Like Leonardo da Vinci', Michael J. Gelb, Bantam Dell, 1998, p.59.

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1. How can I get the job I want?
2. Am I going to have a family?
3. How much money will satisfy my needs and wants?
4. How long will my parents be alive?
5. What is happiness to me?
6. Am I following the 'right' path of my life?
7. Could I be doing something better for myself?
8. Could I be doing something better for others around me?
9. Could I be doing something better for the world?
10. Do I waste too much of my time?
11. What do other people think about me?
12. Who has ever been interested romantically in me?
13. Does any god exist?
14. Do aliens exist?
15. Will humanity ever get off of Earth?
16. How much will my life in its current state effect the future of others?
17. What will be the highest point of my life?
18. What will be the lowest point of my life?
19. Will I ever achieve anything truly 'great'?
20. How long will I be remembered?
21. When will I die?
22. How do I become a better person?
23. Should I have followed through on my romantic interests?
24. Will I ever marry anybody?
25. Was going to UVA the right decision?
26. Was not doing NROTC the right decision?
27. How much would my life have changed if I had been accepted to the Naval Academy?
28. How much would my life have changed if I had been accepted to Cornell?
29. What will be my life's work?
30. Will I ever get to be 6 feet tall?
31. Are my hobbies worthwhile?
32. How long will I continue to communicate with specific friend groups?
33. How successful will I be financially?
34. Will the ability to manipulate time ever exist?
35. Will we ever be able to go faster than the speed of light?
36. Am I spending my money in the right places?
37. Should I have picked another major?
38. Should I have tried harder in past classes?
39. How much did my parents raising affect me as a person?
40. How much did Boy Scouts affect me as a person?
41. How much did wrestling affect me as a person?
42. How much did Norfolk Academy affect me as a person?
43. How much did the University of Virginia affect me as a person?
44. Will I ever feel a true sense of accomplishment of life?
45. Were there any moments in life that I missed out on key opportunities?
46. How much will the passing of my dog affect me?
47. How much pocket change have I lost over my life?
48. How much pocket change have I found over my life?
49. What are my most said words?
50. Will humanity ever get things 'right'?
51. Are my views on the world 'correct'?
52. Does my vote matter?
53. Will I ever truly forget any people that I once held dear?
54. Do I have or will I have any life altering diseases?
55. When will be the last time that I ever see any individual person?

56. Will I ever be quoted?
57. Have I ever saved anybody's life that I didn't know about?
58. Have I ever caused the death of anybody's life that I didn't know about?
59. Are any of my traits that I can't compare to others 'normal'?
60. Do I have any innate skills?
61. Should I show more emotion?
62. Are our lives predestined?
63. How much will humanity advance?
64. How fast will humanity advance?
65. Will I be alive to see the first human on Mars?
66. Will I be alive to see the first colony outside of Earth?
67. What will be the longest average human lifespan?
68. How lucky am I to be alive?
69. What does it feel like to die?
70. Will I outlive the people closest to me?
71. Will the people closest to me outlive me?
72. Do people trust me?
73. Should I be so trusting of others?
74. How will my death affect others?
75. Is there life after death?
76. What are my positive traits?
77. What are my negative traits?
78. How old could I have been?
79. Will I ever be able to grow a beard?
80. Am I spending my money appropriately?
81. How much time have I spent on certain things?
82. Will humanity live long enough to see the sun die?
83. How many species have we yet to find?
84. What will be the highest altitude I reach?
85. What will be the lowest depth I reach?
86. How long will I continue to be 'healthy'?
87. What are the biggest turning points of my life that I don't know about?
88. Who am I a descendent of?
89. Am I creative enough?
90. How do I become funnier?
91. How many people will I truly love?
92. How many people will truly love me?
93. Will I be able to live a fulfilled life?
94. How many of my thoughts and ideas are 100% original?
95. What do people first think when they see me?
96. How much do I unintentionally judge other people based off of their appearance?
97. How many people will I personally know?
98. What are going to be the next couple important human achievements?
99. Why am I able to do this assignment with little difficulty?
100. How many of these questions will I find answers to?

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|-----------------|------------------------|
| ① Academic/Job  | ⑤ Past/Current Self    |
| ② Relationships | ⑥ Future Self          |
| ③ Money         | ⑦ Impossible Questions |
| ④ Humanity      |                        |