ENGR-105 Design Project Homework

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*Video 2 Write-up:*

The primary thesis of the video is that we often have the success-work dichotomy backwards. Success does not bring us happiness, quite to the contrary it is happiness that brings us success. I have to say, I’m inclined to believe him. I already practice some of his happiness remedies (gratitude, exercise, and meditation), and can attest to their efficacy. Success in the career sense may be lagging my age a bit, but then here I am going back to school and much more excited about the decision than I was last time a decade ago.

Regarding positivity in our tools and products, I think an important and simple way to promote this is to simply make things fun to use. This could mean it’s gamified in some way or has some aesthetic charm to it. I think many products, especially newer disposable ones, have so little character and personality. I love this pair of dial calipers I bought on eBay because it has previous owners name engraved on it and has some history to it. I love my pencil pouch because it’s a very distinguishable purple color and has super smooth zippers. User experience and connection is an imperative part of a tool or product being not just useful, but a joy to use.

*Video 2 Questions:*

1. At 12:00, Mahmoud says “I am a scrap of a man,” revealing how he sees himself due to his circumstances.
2. At 14:45, Alberto sees that Mahmoud is literally standing taller because he has found dignity through being able to work and be useful. Not only that, Mahmoud is his fastest worker!

The best designs and products allow people, disabled or otherwise, to do something their were never able to do before; they make the impossible possible. These sorts of revolutionary steps are what make things like the iPhone, the washing machine, and the automobile such significant inventions. There are also less visible but equally important innovations like municipal plumbing, which has effected the health of billions of people. Further, a tool as simple as a talking caliper may not effect how you or I work, but it allows a blind person to do measure and be engineers or machinists, which they are of course just as capable of as we are.