

## Step1 -- In-Class Questions

Q1. When you think of the term 'upgrade', do you think more of your own brain being enhanced or more of your body? Which do you think you are more likely to be personally invested in, given the money and risks involved?

Having family members who have gone through different surgeries to improve the quality of their life, I lean more towards upgrading parts of my body that needs to be repaired. My uncle had his knee repaired a few years ago and he told me that he's walking more confidently now. Personally, I would like to invest in a body enhancement because I am feeling the wear and tear in my body having worked in the construction business for many years. I feel like my shoulders sustained nerve damages that caused chronic pains, and I would like to have repairs that would fix this problem.

Q2. Regarding the idea of enhancing technology that will be directly placed 'onto' or 'into' ourselves, what do you see as the direction(s) humans are going to evolve in the future. What do you think will be the factors and mechanisms that drive this?

I think it's inevitable that technology inside our body will be the new norm. Many people argue that it will make our lives more convenient because we won't have to carry our phone, wallet, identity, and it will be all in one place—a microchip implanted in us. As we discussed in our group, Apple has increased activity tracking in their latest iPhone updates. Although our smartphones are not inside our body, carrying them all the time is the closest thing to it being implanted.

Q3. Would you prefer for technology to become more visible or invisible in our everyday experience? Should all of this technology be embedded in ourselves and our environment (invisible), or would you prefer to see it, to touch it, for it to be more a part from you and more in our faces (visible)?

I prefer technology to be visible because corpora and powerful organizations subtly use invisibility and discreetness to their advantage. Many people are discriminated against by the government's use of artificial intelligence. ACLU has long argued that some of these machines are ineffective when recognizing people of color. For this reason, I prefer that the government, private companies, and people of power are transparent with their use of technology in our everyday lives.

### **Step3 -- Question Summary and Feature Diagrams**

Our group discussed different upgrades that can make lives more convenient. We all leaned towards getting body upgrades more than brain upgrades. We all agreed that there's a lot of things that could go wrong with enhancements in the brain.

We discussed how we are always on our phones and it's no different to technology being placed inside of us. For this reason, we all agreed that having technology implanted in us will be the new normal and people will start to embrace it for the sake of convenience.

For example, a lot of people pay their bills digitally and no longer carry their wallets. Cryptocurrency is also becoming popular and more stores accept it as a form of payment.

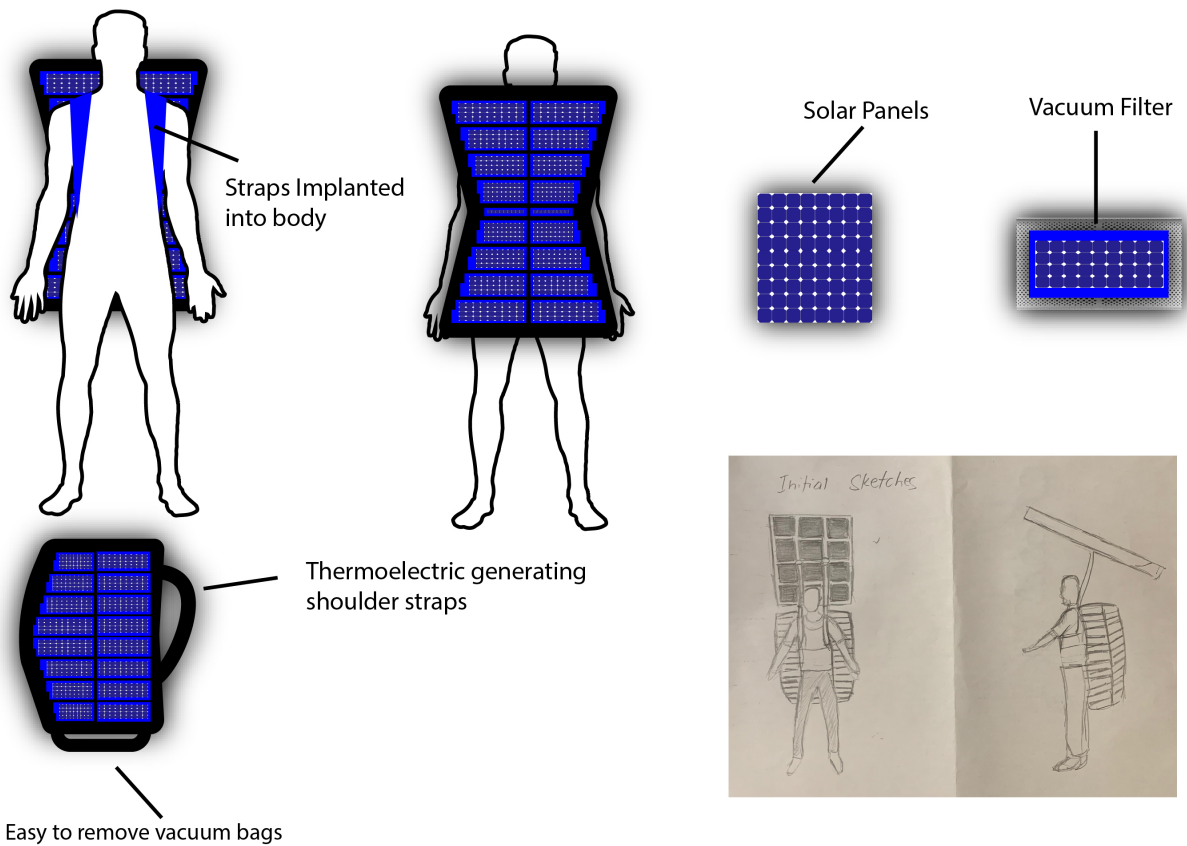
### **Artist Statement**

I've always been interested in incorporating environmental issues with my artwork. When I saw the upgrade discussion, I immediately thought how this object can impact the environment. For my first diagram, I designed a solar powered, air purifying backpack that I can use everyday, which is eco friendly at the same time. The straps are implanted to the person's body which will help the solar panels charge the vacuum.

My second diagram are sneakers that are made out of recycled dust collected from my first diagram. With the use of UV light, the shoes reveal the owner's unique QR code, which shows different information such as number of steps taken and calories burned.

## Diagrams

### Solar Powered Smog/Air Purifying Backpack Implant Diagram 1

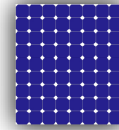
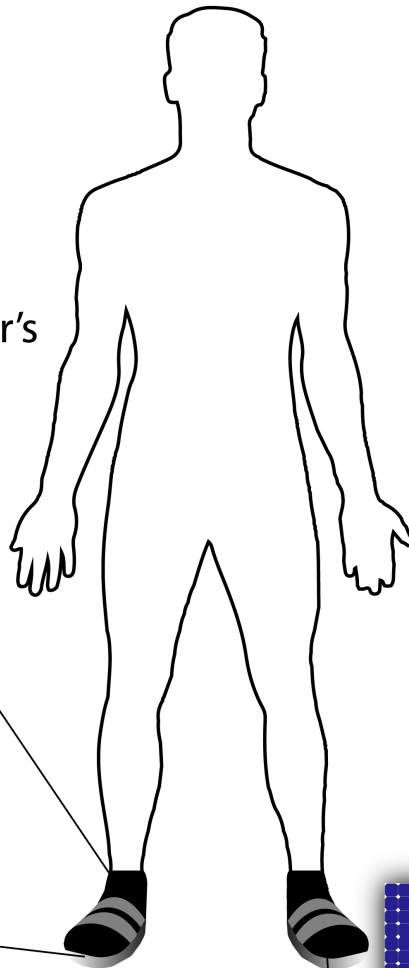


## Diagram 2

Ultraviolet light  
reveals the QR code  
unique to the owner's  
information.



Sneaker soles made  
out of recycled dust  
collected from my  
Diagram 1



Flashes when  
it generates energy  
(solar-powered)