

**ITEA/Gallup Poll Reveals What Americans Think About Technology:  
Questions\* of the Survey Conducted by the Gallup Organization for the  
International Technology Education Association**

- Q.1. Just your opinion, how important is it for people at all levels to develop some ability to understand and use technology?
- Q.2. When you hear the word "technology", what first comes to mind?
- Q.3. I want to give you two definitions, and ask you to tell me, which more closely fits what you think of when you hear the word "technology". Do you think of "computers and the internet", or do you think of "changing the natural world to satisfy our needs"?
- Q.4. Now, what about you? To what extent do you consider yourself to be able to understand and use technology? Would you say a great extent, to some extent, to a limited extent, or not at all?
- Q.5. Which of the following statements best describes your attitude toward the various forms of technology you use in your everyday life?
- A. You don't care how it works just as long as it works
  - B. You would like to know something about how it works
- Q.6. Now, tell me whether you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.
- A. Technology is a small factor in your everyday life
  - B. Engineering and technology are basically one and the same thing
  - C. The results of the use of technology can be good or bad
  - D. Technology is a major factor in the innovations developed within a country
  - E. Science and technology are basically one and the same thing
- Q.8. To which of the following do you feel technology is of the most importance and has the greatest effect?
- A. The individual,
  - B. Our society,
  - C. Our environment
- Q.9. Tell me, how much input do you think you should have in decisions in each of the following areas?
- A. Where to locate roads in your community
  - B. Development of genetically modified foods
  - C. Development of fuel-efficient cars
  - D. Designation of neighborhood community centers

Q.11. Again, just testing your knowledge. Let me ask you if you could explain each of the following to a friend.

- A. Could you explain how a flashlight works?
- B. How to use a credit card to get money out of an atm?
- C. How a home heating system works?
- D. How a telephone call gets from point a to point b?
- E. How energy is transferred into electrical power?

Q.12. Just based on your understanding, tell me if each of the following statements is true or false.

- A. Using a portable phone while in the bathtub creates the possibility of being electrocuted
- B. Fm radios operate free of static
- C. A car operates through a series of explosions in the engine
- D. A microwave heats food from the outside to the inside

Q.13. When you hear the word "design" used in relation to technology, which one are you more likely to think of "a creative process for solving problems", or "blueprints and drawings from which you construct something".

Q.14. When a national shortage of qualified people occurs in a particular area of technology, which of the following solutions would you feel is the most appropriate course of action for the U.S. to take?

- A. Bring in technologically literate people from other countries
- B. Take steps through our schools to increase the number of technologically literate people in this country

Q.15. Using a broad definition of technology as "modifying our natural world to meet human needs", do you believe the study of technology should be included in the school curriculum, or not?

Q.16. Should the study of technology be made a part of other subjects like science, math, and social studies, or should it be taught as a separate subject?

Base: those who said study of technology should be included in school curriculum

Q.17. Should the subject be required or optional?

Base: those who said technology should be taught as a separate subject

Q.18. Tell me how important it is for schools to prepare students in the following areas.

- A. The relationship between technology, mathematics and science
- B. The role of people in the development and use of technology

- C. Knowing something about how products are designed
- D. The ability to select and use products
- E. An understanding of the advances and innovations in technology

Q.19. Should students be evaluated for technological literacy as part of the high school graduation requirements?

Demographic questions:

Q.D1. Gender

Q.D2. Please tell me your age.

Q.D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Q.D4. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish background?

Q.D5. What is your race? Are you white, African American, Asian or some other race?

Q.D6. Do you consider yourself to be white-Hispanic or black-Hispanic?

Q.D7. We would like to know something about your employment background. Are you currently employed, or if retired or no longer working, have you ever been employed, in any of the following areas?

Programming or design, information systems

Engineering

Physical sciences, such as chemistry or physics

An other technology area

Some other occupation

Not employed

\* The questions listed are in the order conducted during the survey. In the report, the questions were rearranged in order to put related questions for purposes of clarity.