

Sixteen Questions Used for 2004 ITEA/Gallup Poll

1. When you hear the word “technology,” what first comes to mind?
2. Just your opinion, how important is it for people at all levels to develop some ability to understand and use technology? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
3. How important is it to you to know how various technologies work? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?
4. How important is it to you, personally, to know each of the following? Is this very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?
 - Knowing whether it’s better to repair products or better to throw them away.
 - Diagnosing why something doesn’t work so it can be fixed.
 - How to program a VCR or use other “thinking” products.
 - Being able to develop solutions to a practical technological problem.
 - How to fix a light switch or other household product that stops working.
 - Knowing how products such as a paper stapler work.
5. Now, tell me whether you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.
 - Technology is a small factor in your everyday life.
 - Engineering and technology are basically one and the same thing.
 - The results of the use of technology can be good or bad.
 - Science and technology are basically one and the same thing.
6. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about technology. Do you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree?
 - Humans often develop new technologies to improve upon previous technologies.
 - Most environmental problems can be solved using technology.
 - Design is a process that can be used to turn ideas into products.
7. Just based on your understanding, tell me if each of the following statements is true or false. How about:
 - Using a portable phone while in the bathtub creates the possibility of being electrocuted.
 - FM radios operate free of static.
 - A car operates through a series of explosions.
 - A microwave heats food from the outside to the inside.
8. Please tell me if you think the following statements are absolutely true, probably true, probably false, or absolutely false.
 - Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria.

- Using a cordless phone while in the bathtub creates the possibility of being electrocuted.
- The Internet and World Wide Web are the same thing.
- Fuel cells are now being used with gasoline or diesel engines to power cars.

9. How much of an interest do you, yourself, have in the following topics? Are you very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not interested at all?

- Modification of plants and animals to supply food.
- Robotics and other technologies in manufacturing.
- New construction methods for homes and buildings.
- Space exploration.

10. Now, as I read these topics again, please tell me how informed you feel you are about each. Would you say you are very informed, somewhat informed, not very informed, or not informed at all?

- Modification of plants and animals to supply food.
- Robotics and other technologies in manufacturing.
- New construction methods for homes and buildings.
- Space exploration.

11. How much influence do you think people like yourself have on decisions about such things as the fuel efficiency of cars, the construction of roads in your community, and genetically modified foods? Would you say a great deal, some, very little, or no influence?

12. Thinking about things such as fuel efficiency of cars, the construction of roads in your community, and genetically modified foods, how much confidence do you have in experts in these fields to make the right decisions for your community?

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

14. I am going to read a number of things that high school graduates might or might not know or be able to do. As I read each, tell me how important it is that high school students understand and are able to do each.

- The relationship between technology, mathematics, and science.
- Have the knowledge and skills to apply technology.
- The role of people in the development and use of technology.
- Understand the overall effect of technology on our society.
- Understand the relationship between technology and the environment.
- Understand the relationship between technology and the economy.
- An understanding of the advances and innovations in technology.
- The ability to select and use products.
- Evaluate the pros and cons of specific technology uses.

- Know something about how products are designed.

15. 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?

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

16. The federal government requires that students be tested in science, mathematics, and reading. In your opinion, should these tests include or not include questions to help determine how much these students understand and know about technology?