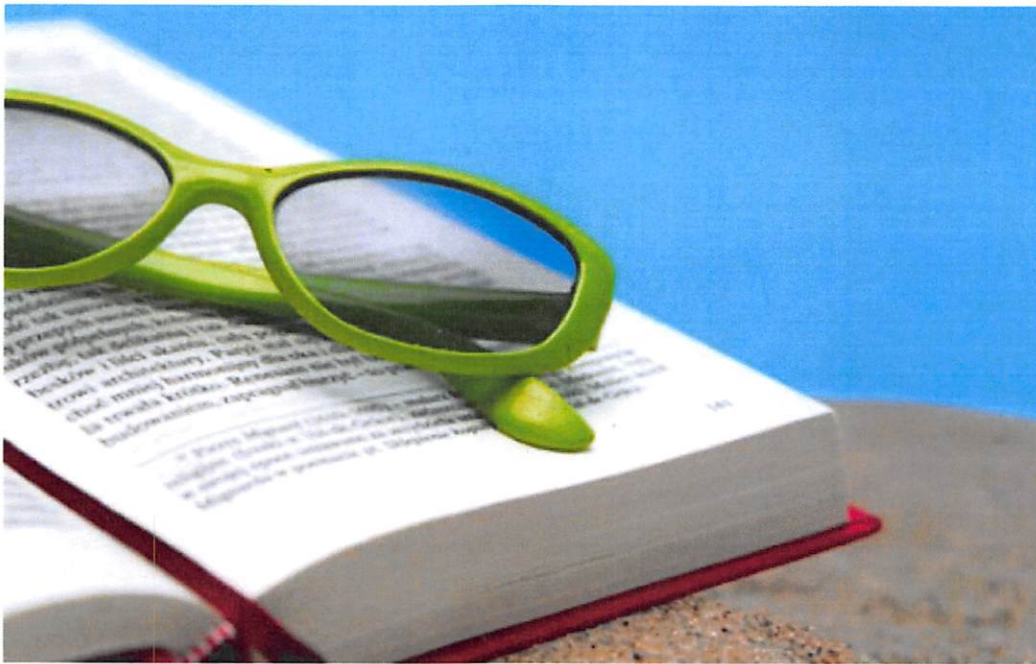


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## Summer Reader

*Class of 2018*



## Incoming 11th Grade Summer Reader - Checklist

Check off the articles once you read and annotate them. Once you complete them all - reflect in writing on the following page. You are expected to read and annotate ALL of the articles in this reader. Thank you incoming Juniors! This will be collected and graded your first week of school! Be ready! :)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Article Title</u> (Always put article titles in quotes)	<u>Read and Annotated</u>	<u>Notes</u> (Anything that helps you remember main ideas)
12/16	<b>Example:</b> "Your School Loves You"	<b>Ex:</b>  ✓	<b>Example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPA supports students by making sure all are learning.</li> <li>• Gratitude is the KEY.</li> </ul>
	"Should Batman kill The Joker?"		
	"Can We Imagine Life Without Mathematics?"		
	"Universities Pledge Support to Improve Higher Education Success Among Latinos?"		
	"6 Things You Need to Know About STEM"		
	"Univision Fought with Trump, Now Wants 3 Million New Latino Votes"		
	"South Dakota Governor Vetoes Anti-Trans "Bathroom Bill""		
	"This Former Prisoner is Writing for Life"		
	"Chicago Teens Confronted with New Wave of Islamophobia"		
	"Why the Apple Design is so Successful"		
	Enter your own reading choice here (book, article, song lyrics, poem, recipe, etc.) Add title below...  _____		
	Reading Reflection (Always use your best writing skills)		

**Don't forget to complete your reading reflection at the end of your reader using your BEST writing skills. We are so proud of you!**

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2016 Summer Reader Grading Rubric - Grades 6 -11

Categories for Evaluation	5	4	3
<b>Annotation Skills</b>	<p>Text has been thoroughly annotated with questions, observations, and reflections of the content as well as the writing. Comments demonstrate analysis and interpretation – thinking goes beyond the surface level of the text. Thoughtful connections are made to other texts, life experiences. Marginal comments accomplish a great variety of purposes. Consistent markings appear throughout text (not bunched).</p>	<p>Text has been annotated reasonably well with questions, observations, and/or reflections of the content as well as the writing. Comments demonstrate some analysis and interpretation – thinking somewhat beyond the surface level of the text. Attempts at making connections are evident. Marginal comments accomplish a variety of purposes. Some lapses in entries exist; may be sporadic.</p>	<p>Text has been briefly annotated. Commentary remains mostly at the surface level. The commentary suggests thought in specific sections of the text rather than throughout. There is little or no attempt to make connections</p>
<b>Written Reflection</b>	<p>Demonstrate a thoughtful understanding of the writing prompt and the subject matter. Use relevant examples from the texts studied to support claims in your own writing, making applicable connections between texts.</p>	<p>Demonstrate a basic understanding of the writing prompt and the subject matter. Use examples from the text to support most claims in your writing with some connections made between texts.</p>	<p>Demonstrate a limited understanding of the writing prompt and subject matter. This reflection needs revision. Use incomplete or vaguely developed examples to only partially support claims with no connections made between texts.</p>

Point Conversion Chart (ADDING the two categories together):

Points Possible: 10 (A)

9 (A-)

8 (B)

7 (C)

6 (D)

\*Circle Student Score

# MARK D. WHITE AND ROBERT ARP SHOULD BATMAN KILL THE JOKER?



Mark D. White is a professor of political science, economics, and philosophy at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York. He is the co-editor with Irene van Staveren of *Ethics and Economics* (2009). Robert Arp is a specialist in biomedical ethics and the philosophy of biology and an associate of the Analysis Group of Falls Church, Virginia, a company that provides technical and operational support for national security clients. He is the author of *Scenario Visualization: An Evolutionary Account of Creative Problem Solving* (2008). Together, White and Arp have edited a collection of essays, *Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul* (2008). In "Should Batman Kill the Joker?" first published in the *Boston Globe* in 2008, they argue for the value of pop culture in helping us explore ethical approaches to real-world issues.

cool.



-claim?

-attention grabber

**B**atman should kill the Joker. How many of us would agree with that? Quite a few, we'd wager. Even Heath Ledger's Joker in *The Dark Knight* marvels at Batman's refusal to kill him. After all, the Joker is a murderous psychopath,



and Batman could save countless innocent lives by ending his miserable existence once and for all.

Of course, there are plenty of masked loonies ready to take the Joker's place, but none of them has ever shown the same twisted devotion to chaos and tragedy as the Clown Prince of Crime.

Suggest disorder

But if we say that Batman should kill the Joker, doesn't that imply that we should torture terror suspects if there's a chance of getting information that could save innocent lives? Of course, terror is all too present in the real world, and Batman only exists in the comics and movies. So maybe we're just too detached from the Dark Knight and the problems of Gotham City, so we can say "go ahead, kill him." But, if anything, that detachment implies that there's more at stake in the real world—so why aren't we tougher on actual terrorists than we are on the make-believe Joker?

Batman vs Joker vs US vs terrorist

Pop culture, such as the Batman comics and movies, provides an opportunity to think philosophically about issues and topics that parallel the real world. For instance, thinking about why Batman has never killed the Joker may help us reflect on the nation's issues with terror and torture, specifically their ethics.

mirror moral

Three major schools of ethics provide some perspective on Batman's quandary.

Moral theory

Utilitarianism, based on the work of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, would probably endorse killing the Joker, based on comparing the many lives saved against the one life lost.

difficult situation point of view

approve

Deontology, stemming largely from the writings of Immanuel Kant, would focus on the act of murder itself, rather than the consequences. Kant's position

unclear  
For advice on appealing to the reader's sense of ethics, see p. 517.

would be more ambiguous than the utilitarian's: While it may be preferable for the Joker to be dead, it may not be morally right for any person (such as Batman) to kill him. If the Joker is to be punished, it should be through official procedures, not vigilante justice. More generally, while the Joker is evil, he is still a human being, and is thus deserving of

at least a minimal level of respect and humanity.

small

citizen

1. Mill (1806–1873) and Bentham (1748–1832) were British philosophers and social reformers.
2. German philosopher (1724–1804) whose works include treatises on reason and ethics.

Finally, (3) theory virtue ethics, dating back to the ancient Greeks (such as Aristotle<sup>3</sup>),

would highlight the character of the person who kills the Joker. Does Batman want to be the kind of person that takes his enemies' lives? If he killed the Joker, would he be able to stop there, or would every two-bit thug get the same treatment?

Taking these three ethical perspectives together, we see that while there are good reasons to kill the Joker, in terms of innocent lives saved, there are also good reasons not to kill him, based on what killing him would mean about Batman and his motives, mission, and character. → all must be considered!

Compare to torture

(The same arguments apply to the debate over torture:) While there are good reasons to do it, based on the positive consequences that may come from it, there are also good reasons not to, especially those based on our national character. Many Americans who oppose torture explain their position by saying, "It's not who we are" or "We don't want to turn into them." Batman often says the same thing when asked why he hasn't killed the Joker: "I don't want to become that which I hate."

Applying philosophy to Batman, South Park, or other pop culture phenomena may seem silly or frivolous, but philosophers have used fanciful examples and thought experiments for centuries. The point is making philosophy accessible, and helping us think through difficult topics by casting them in a different light.

not serious

main point

Regardless of your position, torture is an uncomfortable and emotional topic. If translating the core issue to another venue, such as Batman and the Joker, helps us focus on the key aspects of the problem, that can only help refine our thinking. And Batman would definitely approve of that.

U

improve

3. Classical Greek philosopher (384–322 B.C.E.) whose work was foundational for Western philosophy and culture.



## Can We Imagine Life Without Mathematics?

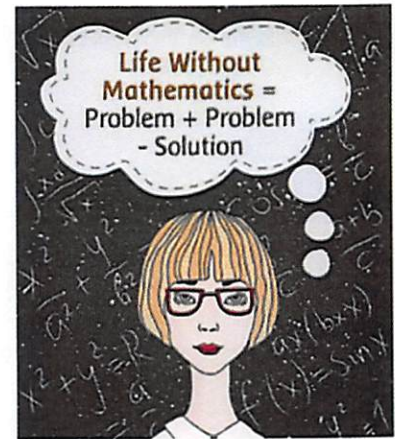
Most of us dread hearing or encountering anything that is related to math. Whether you like it or not, we do share a lifelong bond with mathematics. It is there everywhere and in everything that we do. Have you ever imagined what would life be like without mathematics? Can we even imagine life without mathematics?

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### Did You Know?

The number 40, when written as 'forty', is the only number having letters in alphabetical order, while 'one' is the only number with letters in reverse order.

Mathematics is a 11-letter word, that, with the mere mention of it, triggers weird reactions and scowls from people of all ages. From the time we learned how to count, it marked our lifelong and inseparable bond with math, that we will continue to share forever. Whether one is a Math Whiz Kid or not, it is an integral part of our daily lives.



Yes, we can't run away or hide from it! It follows us around everywhere. It all starts with counting, then come 'x' and 'y', and then Trigonometry, Integration, etc. You may feel that it makes you want to pull your hair out at times, but you have to face it everywhere.

Math is needed at every step of life, and we cannot live without it. It is a subject that is applied to every field and profession. It tells us how things work, and also allows us to predict certain things, which is how we have progressed so much in life. It has made our lives easier, and not complicated. Had it not been for math, we would still be figuring out each and everything in life, which in turn would create chaos. Still not convinced? Take a look at the section below. It might just bring you closer to it, or at least remove your fear of mathematics.

## What Will Happen to the World Without Mathematics?

Try imagining a world without any numbers or math. Hard to imagine, right? Even if you try to put it into words, you still cannot describe each and every bit of it. This explains the importance of mathematics in our daily life, since numbers are the basic building blocks and foundation of mathematics.

### In Daily Life



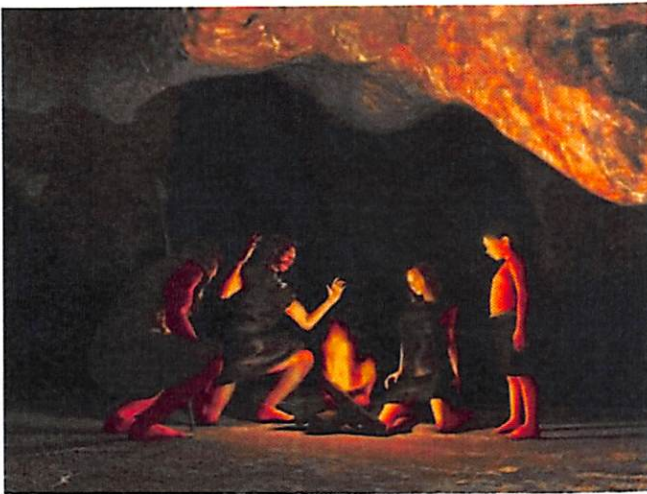
If there were no numbers, there wouldn't exist any calendars or time. You won't even know that it's your own birthday, your best friend's birthday, or your dog's birthday, since all the days in your life will be same. You wouldn't know what year it is. How will you know that it's time for your favorite show? And how will you know what channel your favorite show is coming on?

#### **In the Store**



Imagine that you go to a store and want to buy the latest version of your favorite video game. But since we are living in a world sans math, how will you know how much it costs? You wouldn't know how many apples or strawberries you bought from the store. If you want to buy some medicine, how will you know how strong it is, or in what quantity the ingredients are present in it?

#### **In the House**



If you want to bake your favorite cake, you won't be able to measure the ingredients, since there are no numbers. How will you know how much is  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon or  $\frac{3}{4}$  tablespoon? Moreover, there would be no calculators to calculate your share of the contribution for pizza that you ordered. While decorating or repainting your house, you at once come to know how much paint would be required and how many tiles you need to get according to the size of a room. All of this is possible only because Mr. Algebra is there to help you out with the help of our beloved Mr. X.

### **In Technology**

Moreover, there wouldn't be any advancements in technology. The cell phones and high-end gadgets that you use everyday wouldn't exist, since the mechanism and working involves complex algorithms, which are possible because of mathematics. Imagine living in a world without computers, televisions, laptops, cell phones, and even electricity. We're sure most of you couldn't even imagine living without all these. Mathematics has such a wide and huge application in every sphere of life, that even persons having math-phobia use it in their daily lives in some or the other way.

### **In Education**



If there were no numbers, then there wouldn't be any Math, Physics, or Chemistry to study. And there would be no examinations or tests, the results of which would freak you out! We can see the wide, devilish grin on your face, looking at your computer screen here! Of course, who wouldn't love to be in a world where there would be no studying and no exams to appear for. But come to think of it, would you be so much educated and well-learned if you didn't have math in your life at all?

### **In Sports**



Do you love sports? Well, if it wasn't for numbers, how would you know the scores, or dimensions of the football field or basketball court? How would you have come to know how much distance you ran and how you need to cover, or how much time is left for the match to end? There would be no competitions and tournaments. Don't you think it would get a bit boring?

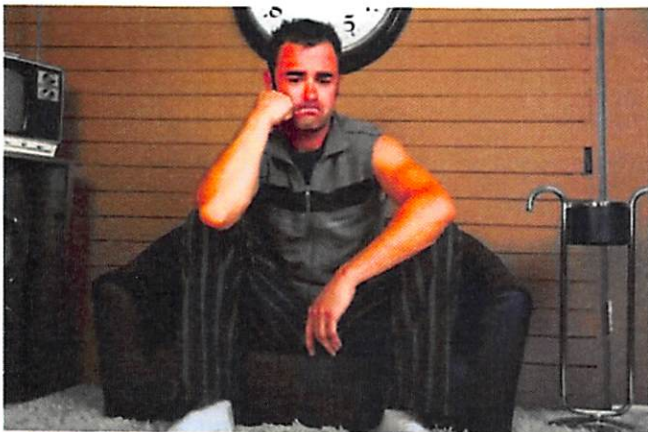
### **In Economics**



The economic sector would be hit the hardest if there wouldn't have been any numbers in this world. There wouldn't be any way to measure the value of goods and services. There wouldn't be any trading, and people would often end up with either too much or too little of everything. Without a budget, you'd never realize when you run out of money.

Day-to-day transactions would be chaotic. You wouldn't have been able to analyze market trends, which are the main elements of any business. There would be no GDP, no interests, and no shares to invest in.

### **In Employment**



So many people in this world would be unemployed, especially the ones working in banking sectors, engineers, architects, etc. And most of all, all the math professors on this planet would be sitting at home, thinking of something else to do in life!



Had it not been for mathematics, you wouldn't have stumbled upon this article as well! Okay, jokes apart! So now you know that life without mathematics is actually impossible and unimaginable. You just need to get your basics right, and know how to play with numbers. Hope you have fallen in love with it by now! If you haven't, then it's about time we accept the fact that we are destined to live with mathematics for the rest of our lives. This is how much it loves everyone. So, the best way to make peace with it would be to accept it and love it back. After all, it was made to make our lives easier, not difficult.

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 Tanaya Navalkar    Last Updated: December 31, 2015

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## Universities Pledge Support To Improve Higher Education Success Among Latinos

05/09/2014 04:41 pm ET | Updated May 09, 2014



John Benson  
VOXXI



IMAGE SOURCE TAC VIA GETTY IMAGES

Now that Latino students are attending college at record pace, education activists are turning their attention to graduating ceremonies.

Take for instance Excelencia in Education, which boasts a mission to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. The Washington, D.C.-based national non-profit has joined forces to launch Presidents for Latino Student Success. So far 17 college and university presidents have pledged their support toward the national effort to improve higher education success for Latino students.

"This is an extension of something we started about three years ago called Excelencia in Action," Excelencia in Education President Sarita E. Brown told VOXXI. "It really creates direct ties with leadership in colleges and universities to produce better results in terms of Latino college completion."



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# H Universities Pledge Support To Improve Higher Education ...



our nation's future," said Long Beach City College President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "Excelencia's analysis makes clear that for the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million more degrees by 2020. Every higher educational institution in America could benefit from Excelencia's research, evidence-based practices, and proven ability to bring together key stakeholders to move our nation toward that goal."

The idea is previous emphasis was on Latinos attending college, which Brown said is still a focus. Now Presidents for Latino Student Success aims to help those students walk across the stage in a cap and gown. Its focus will be on issues ranging from financial needs to degree attainment.

Specifically regarding the latter, Brown said the new initiative reminds colleges and universities to keep fast lanes towards graduation open for Latino students.

"It's looking at the availability of courses and making sure they're offered when you can take them," Brown said. "It's doing those kinds of things in a way that not only the student stays committed to their education but the institution recognizes its responsibility because they have the most ability to influence those students moving through the program quickly."

There's also a belief that the goals of [Presidents for Latino Student Success](#) will help institutions better serve all students.

As for measuring success, Brown said the metrics include enrollment and graduation of Latino students at institutions. The current figures will act as a baseline, with future results unknown.

"Their objective is to improve both the participation of Latino students at their institutions but more importantly the graduation from their institutions," Brown said.

Ultimately, the goal of the Presidents for Latino Student Success initiative is to curb the equity gap and increase achievement.

Looking ahead, she stressed tenacity and commitment will be required for Presidents for Latino Student Success to have a lasting impact.

"Unfortunately, it's not a quick fix," Brown said. "This is not about mainly the challenge, this is about rising to meet the challenge and in that respect, I think we have to stay the course. We have to stay with it until it's done."

*Originally published on [VOXXI](#) as [Universities pledged for the success of the Hispanics students](#)*

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Science of Work

# 6 things you need to know about STEM

by Sara Ashley O'Brien @saraashleyo

October 10, 2014: 2:18 PM ET

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## Your guide to high-paying STEM jobs

STEM -- the acronym for science, technology, engineering and math -- has sparked a nationwide debate about education, gender, immigration and the future of the U.S. economy.

Here are six things you need to know about STEM:

Kids need to get excited about science early.

STEM jobs are growing at 1.7 times the rate of non-STEM jobs, and the U.S. is simply not producing enough candidates to fill them. Only 16% of high school seniors are interested in pursuing STEM careers, according to the Department of Education.

The Obama administration is investing millions of dollars to produce an additional one million STEM undergrads by 2022. But that would barely fill the projected shortage in STEM jobs.

To get more students interested, some universities are changing their approach.

"[College professors] have changed how they teach in order to draw in a more diverse group," said Londa Schiebinger, a [professor at Stanford](#). "They show you the cool applications first -- then they bring in the theory and more difficult techniques. It's hooking people in and showing them what they can do with the skills."

**Related:** [Few female engineers and execs at Google](#)

But it's got to happen sooner -- starting in kindergarten -- in order to attract a diverse mix and spur innovation.

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STEM grads aren't just important for engineering.

74% of college graduates with STEM degrees are going into non-STEM jobs, according to the Census Bureau. They're pursuing careers in everything from healthcare and law to education and social work.

While that's bad news for employers hoping to fill STEM positions, the graduates are highly sought after and earn higher wages than their non-STEM counterparts, according to the [U.S. Department of Commerce](#).

"You want them to go on to higher value-added pursuits. You want them to start their own companies," said Anthony P. Carnevale, director of Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce. "Having a technical degree is the best foundation to give you the most choice in this economy."

**Related: Young women raise big bucks for startups**

Just in case there's any doubt: Microsoft's ([MSFT](#), [Tech30](#)) Satya Nadella, Amazon's ([AMZN](#), [Tech30](#)) Jeff Bezos and Yahoo's ([YHOO](#), [Tech30](#)) Marissa Mayer all have engineering degrees -- and none are technically working in a "STEM" field.

Fewer women are graduating with computing degrees.

These numbers have actually decreased over the past two decades. According to the National Center for Women & Information Technology, women made up just 18% of computer science college grads in 2012. In 1985, it was 37%.

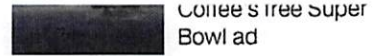
"Women are becoming discouraged from computer science because it's a boy's club," said Vivek Wadhwa, fellow at Stanford Law School and author of [Innovating Women](#). "We need to level the playing field, change our practices. We've created the shortage for ourselves."



Techies descend on the White House

Computer science is a growing sector, and it's important for women to be a part of that growth. Employment opportunities are projected to grow 15% from 2012 to 2022 (that's faster than average), according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Not all STEM jobs are created equal.



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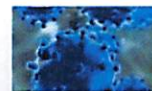
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Women tend to specialize in less lucrative STEM fields, [according to FiveThirtyEight](#). They pursue careers in health and life sciences, while men are more likely to go into computer science and engineering (which tend to pay more).

#### Related: Women thrive in China's booming tech scene

The salary difference can be substantial. Nutritional science majors (86.4% of whom are women) earn a median \$35,000 out of college. Meanwhile, Mining and Mineral Engineering majors (roughly 90% of whom are men) make a median \$75,000 out of college.

Foreigners aren't taking Americans' jobs.

Foreign students gravitate toward STEM fields like medicine and computer software design, which have some of the lowest unemployment rates, [according to a report](#) from the Partnership for a New American Economy.

These are also jobs that U.S. companies consistently struggle to fill -- much more than their non-STEM counterparts, according to a [Brookings report](#).

That means foreigners aren't keeping native workers in those fields from finding jobs.

Moreover, immigrants bring knowledge of global markets, which is key for innovation, according to Wadhwa.

The U.S. will be increasingly reliant on foreign talent.

Foreign students study STEM or business fields at a higher rate than American students (about 66% compared to 48%), according to a separate [report from Brookings](#).

Moreover, the number of native-born students pursuing STEM degrees is growing at just [1% a year](#).

#### Related: Women take on manufacturing

Members of Congress have introduced efforts to make it easier for foreign STEM graduates to get a green card.

But mobilizing homegrown talent is also a priority for the Obama administration, which is putting \$35 million toward a STEM teacher training competition and mentoring initiative that will connect students to tech workers.

Encouraging more people, especially women, to consider STEM fields is key to ensuring the U.S. doesn't suffer a massive brain drain when foreign talent leaves the country.

"We still need immigrants. [But] we need to encourage women to enter those fields," said Wadhwa. "[Then] immigration can take its natural path."

CNNMoney (New York)

First published September 25, 2014: 10:04 AM ET

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# Univision fought with Trump, now wants 3 million new Latino voters

By Kate Linthicum, Los Angeles Times on 03.08.16

Word Count **831**



Univision news anchor Jorge Ramos speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Feb. 23, 2010. The Spanish-language TV network is helping Latinos sign up to vote in the presidential election. Photo: Wikipedia

Last summer, Univision went to war with Donald Trump after he called Mexicans drug dealers and rapists — a move typical of the network that views itself not just as a media company but as an advocate and defender of the Latino community.

Now Univision is launching a major voter registration and engagement campaign aimed at turning out 3 million new Latino voters ahead of this year's presidential election.

The network published an online voter guide this week and is partnering with several organizations to register eligible Latinos — a population that has grown 40 percent in the past eight years alone. Univision will broadcast public service announcements across its 126 local television and radio stations about the importance of voting and is enlisting one of its young stars to tell his own story about becoming a voter. A spokeswoman for the network said Univision's campaign news team will be bigger than any previous election, with 36 reporters and producers already assigned to campaign coverage.

the tussle with Trump and the fact that Latino voters tend to favor Democratic candidates. But star anchor Jorge Ramos defended it, saying Republicans had only themselves to blame if the network's emphasis on immigration news reflects poorly on the GOP.

"The Republican Party has had an incredible opportunity to reach Latino voters, and they failed," Ramos said in an interview. "You cannot say, 'Vote for me, but I want to deport your mother or your brother.'"

Univision and other Spanish-language news outlets have conducted similar voter engagement campaigns in previous years. But its efforts are coming under extra scrutiny this campaign cycle because of the network's starring role in the presidential race.

After Trump disparaged Mexican immigrants in his presidential campaign announcement in June, Univision officials announced they were cutting all business ties with him and would not air his Miss Universe competition. Network officials said they had a duty to stand up for their viewers, many of whom are Latino immigrants or have family members who are. Trump sued, and the parties settled their lawsuit this month.

In Iowa last summer, Trump had Ramos ejected from a news conference after Ramos questioned him repeatedly about the cost of Trump's plan to deport the estimated 11 million immigrants living illegally in the U.S.

Ramos and Univision's co-owner have been criticized for their own ties to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, which some conservatives believe calls into question the network's objectivity. Univision co-owner Haim Saban has donated several million dollars to an outside group working to elect Clinton, and Ramos' daughter is working on the Clinton campaign.

Because Latino voters tend to side with Democratic candidates, with two-thirds of Latinos voting for President Barack Obama in 2008, that has led to questions about whether Univision's latest efforts are an attempt to create more Democratic voters.

Ken Oliver-Mendez, the director of an organization that tracks what it sees as liberal bias in the Spanish-language media, said Univision has not covered Republicans fairly in the past, and its voter-registration efforts should be closely examined.

"We all believe in getting more people to vote," said Oliver-Mendez, director of MRC Latino. "But we're going to be looking critically at what issues they present as important."

He complained that Univision puts too much emphasis on immigration coverage — which he says favors Democrats — and doesn't spend enough time on other issues that are important to many Latinos, such as abortion or the economy.

Ramos disagreed, saying the network covers a multitude of Latino issues and is even-handed in its coverage of all political candidates.

and become eligible to vote each month. "There is truly a demographic revolution," Ramos said. "In order to go from big numbers to true power, you need people going to vote on Election Day."

Igniting action among millennial voters is always a challenge, regardless of race. But Latino millennials tend to vote at even lower rates than their white and African-American counterparts. As part of the network's election efforts, it will set up voter registration booths outside the Copa America soccer tournament in June around the U.S. and will broadcast public service announcements during coverage of the matches. Fusion, the network's English-language Web platform geared toward younger Latinos, will also be part of the voter outreach campaign.

The network has partnered with several Latino voter registration groups, including Mi Familia Vota and League of United Latin American Citizens.

Brent Wilkes, national director of LULAC, said his organization has registration efforts underway in 22 states. It helped register more than 10,000 Latinos in Iowa ahead of the state's February primary — an effort Wilkes said was helped by Trump's comments.

Wilkes said he hopes the Univision partnership will help empower Latinos at a time when they have come under attack.

"We're hoping the Latino community will stand up and defend itself," he said.

## South Dakota Governor Vetoes Anti-Trans 'Bathroom Bill'

The bill would have prevented transgender students in public schools from using bathrooms aligned with their gender identity.

Sameer Rao (*/writers/sameer-rao*) | MAR 2, 2016 4:02PM EST



Governor Dennis Daugaard vetoed a bill that would have forbidden trans students in public schools from using bathrooms aligned with their gender identity.

Photo: Cory Doctorow via Flickr Creative Commons

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South Dakota appeared to be on track to become the first state to pass legislation that would prevent transgender public school students from using bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their gender identity (<https://www.colorlines.com/articles/south-dakota-awaits-governors-decision-anti-trans-bathroom-bill>). But thanks to the governor's veto, HB 1008 ([http://legis.sd.gov/legislative\\_session/bills/Bill.aspx?File=HB1008ENR.htm&Session=2016](http://legis.sd.gov/legislative_session/bills/Bill.aspx?File=HB1008ENR.htm&Session=2016)) won't become law.

Republican governor Dennis Daugaard vetoed the bill yesterday (March 1). CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/01/us/south-dakota-transgender-bathroom-bill/>) reports that Daugaard said the bill "does not address any pressing issue concerning the school districts of South Dakota."

"This bill seeks to impose statewide standards on 'every restroom, locker room and shower room located in a public elementary or secondary school,'" he added. "It removes the ability of local school districts to determine the most appropriate accommodations for their individual students and replaces that flexibility with a state mandate."

The bill passed in the state house in January and the state senate in February. Daugaard had until midnight on Tuesday to issue his decision. Had he stalled, the bill would have become law.

Transgender Law Center (<http://transgenderlawcenter.org/>) executive



director Kris Hayashi, who previously said (<https://www.colorlines.com/articles/south-dakota-awaits-governors-decision-anti-trans-bathroom-bill>) that the law would "endanger students and open up South Dakota schools to legal chaos, liability and the loss of millions in federal funds," commended the veto. "Governor Daugaard made the right call in vetoing this dangerous legislation, sparing South Dakota the risky and costly experiment of becoming the first state to mandate discrimination against transgender youth in violation of federal law and student privacy and well-being," said Hayashi.

Gawker (<http://gawker.com/south-dakota-governor-vetoes-bad-transgender-bathroom-b-1762353464>) points out that, given Daugaard's previous opposition to marriage equality and pro-choice measures, the governor's veto may have been a way to prevent legal conflict with the federal government over public school funding.

(H/t CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/01/us/south-dakota-transgender-bathroom-bill/>), Gawker (<http://gawker.com/south-dakota-governor-vetoes-bad-transgender-bathroom-b-1762353464>))

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**EACING**



## This Former Prisoner is Writing for Life

Detroit native Shaka Senghor started selling crack at 14 and eventually served 19 years in prison for murder. Here, he discusses "Writing My Wrongs," his unflinching debut memoir that traces his path from nerdy kid to convicted murderer to celebrated prison reform activist.

*Interview by asha bandele. Introduction by Akiba Solomon (/writers/interview-asha-banделе-introduction-akiba-solomon)* | MAR 14, 2016 5:52PM EDT



Shaka Senghor, former prisoner, criminal justice reform advocate and #Cut50 director of strategy and marketing.

Photo: Colorlines screenshot from "Writing My Wrongs" trailer

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Despite his dream of becoming a doctor and parents who met all of his material needs, Shaka Senghor started hustling drugs at 14. Having left home to escape his mother's beatings, Senghor would spend five years on the Detroit streets at the height of the 1980s crack boom. He would eventually get shot, become a second-degree murderer and serve 19 years in prison, including more than five in solitary confinement. In his new memoir, "Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison," (<http://www.beyondprisons.org/>) Senghor delivers a deeply personal look into his mind before and during his incarceration.

In addition to the book, Senghor has shared his story in a popular TEDTalk, an interview with Oprah Winfrey (<http://www.supersoul.tv/category/supersoul-sunday>), and appearances around the country. He has been embraced by politicians and other anti-prison advocates, including Michelle Alexander and Van Jones, with whom he works at #Cut50 (<http://www.cut50.org/>) as director of strategy and marketing.

For Colorlines, Senghor had a wide-ranging conversation with asha bandele, a senior director at the Drug Policy Alliance (<http://www.drugpolicy.org/about-us/staff-and-board/staff/asha-bandelesenior-director-grants-partnerships-and-special-projects>) and the author

of the groundbreaking memoir “The Prisoner’s Wife.” In this exchange cut and edited for space and clarity, the writers discuss the politics of crack, White flight and forgiveness. They also grapple with the challenge of putting out a powerful redemption story that doesn’t end up fueling the falsehood that incarceration is solely a matter of personal responsibility rather than a byproduct of a deeply unequal and racist criminal justice system.

**asha bande: What did you most want readers to take away from “Writing My Wrongs”?**

**Shaka Senghor:** I want people to understand the human side of mass incarceration. Crime in urban communities gets splashed across the headlines but only gives us snap judgments of the people accused. I want people to have a more holistic view of us, to understand that behind the statistics there are real human beings, families- fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. These people aren’t the living definition of evil. They come from all walks of life, and many times they’ve had traumatic life experiences that led to them being in prison.

**In many ways you make that point strongly, but some of the words you use in the book like “super-predator” and “crack whore” were jarring. Do you worry about how this language might increase the stigma against the very people you work so hard to lift up?**

In the book, I was reflecting the mentality I had when I was in the street. I know that often times we tend to identify people in ways that are very

limiting—which is unfortunate because like others, I tended to live out my life based on these limitations and terms that were given to me.

**I did notice that in the book you shifted. After you began building with men in prison who were politically conscious and you began reading, you didn't use terms like that anymore. Was that a conscious decision?**

It was, and also a reflection of my natural growth encouraged by these amazing books I read that awakened me to my authentic self.

**Talk about the books that impacted you the most.**

My introduction to Black literature came from reading Donald Goines' [fiction]. Once I started reading him, my mind was opened to other books by Black authors. "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" had the most profound impact on my life. After Malcolm, I read Marcus Garvey, Assata Shakur—and your book ["The Prisoner's Wife"]! All of these books brought me to the title "Writing My Wrongs" because it was through the written word that I was able to really find my authentic self.

**Much of your book details your use and sale of crack. Given the work you've done and all you've read, do you have a different reflection now on some of the people who bought from you, including the women who had been generally reduced to so-called crack whores?**

When crack hit, it destroyed our moral fabric and created a very unhealthy dynamic in terms of how young men began to see women in our community. It was really important to bring those things out in the book, along with my role.

**Dr. Carl Hart, the leading neuroscientist on drugs and an expert in drug policy, details in his book, "High Price," how we misnamed the Crack Era. We blamed everything on crack and the people who sold crack, which made it easy to ignore the Reagan-era policies that destroyed and disassembled so many communities and social supports. In other words, if we talked about a drug—which was used and sold at least as much in White communities that did not come undone because they had employment, healthcare and employee assistance programs—we didn't have to talk about structural racism. What do you think?**

I get that. In Detroit, I grew up in an era called White Flight. I saw the way the collapse of the industrial system really impacted our community. We went from being this beautiful middle-class neighborhood to one that looked like a bombed-out country.

I wrote from the perspective of how I lived at the time. I had absolutely no political conscience then. I literally saw just what was directly in front of me. It wasn't until much later that I was able to understand that the men and women who at one time were factory workers, librarians and teachers had lost their jobs which let addiction play out in their lives so badly.

I also didn't understand that social programs that were created by the Black Panther Party like the Free Breakfast program, was first commandeered by the government, and then destroyed. Those programs really helped people sustain their families. And of course the structural breakdown was made even worse by the racial polarization—something that plays out in the city even today.

**When the United States has 5 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the world's prison population, we're no longer talking about individual failure. We're talking about a policy position. Your work at the prison reform organization #Cut50 is mighty—shifting the behemoth that is the theater of punishment in the United States.**

You know, I'm aware that this is one of the first times that somebody who has been convicted of murder—and who wasn't exonerated—has this type of platform. So what I really want to challenge is this whole idea of nonviolent versus violent offender: We'll release the nonviolent offenders and we'll reap more punishment on the violent ones. What's not being told to the American public is that 90 percent of the men and women, regardless of what they've been convicted of, will at some point return to society and we have a choice in what kind of men and women they will be. Will they be men and women more harmed coming out than they were going in?

We've opted to not exercise our human compassion and empathy. Our



primary model for resolving conflict is to further diminish, demean and punish people. We've chosen to throw people away. But as long as we continue to see people as statistics and data, we'll never arrive at a point where we really know what's happened to the fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers—or their children left behind. I hope that what I've been able to do is pull the lid off of a clandestine environment. We have 2.2 million people locked up and we really don't know what those environments are like or really understand anything that goes on inside. I am not going to allow that on my watch. We're all going to have to grapple with the hard stuff and talk about the things that make us uncomfortable, because that's the only way we're going to arrive at a place of true justice.

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(<https://facingrace.raceforward.org>)

# Chicago teens confronted with new wave of Islamophobia speak up

By Chicago Tribune, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.19.16

Word Count **1,110**



Saarah Bhajji, 16, folds one of her many headscarves at her home in Glenview, Illinois, Jan. 31, 2016. Saarah teaches at the Muslim Education Center in Morton Grove on Sundays and attends Glenbrook South High School as a junior during the week, where she said her experience as a Muslim has been mostly positive. Photo: Erin Hooley/Chicago Tribune/TNS

GLENVIEW, Ill. — Aasiyah Bhajji knew the boys in her Glenview, Illinois, middle school class were just clowning around, but their words still hurt. As they headed inside from an ultimate Frisbee game, one of them wrapped his scarf around his head like a turban.

“Are you trying to go Muslim style, terrorist style?” his buddy asked, making Aasiyah’s stomach burn, as she told him to stop it.

“You can’t tell me he doesn’t look like Osama bin Laden,” he told Aasiyah.

Later she explained to a friend how upset she was that they were joking about her religion. “My religion is me,” Aasiyah said.

Aasiyah, 13, wasn’t born when the Sept. 11 attacks happened, and her 16-year-old sister, Saarah, was just an infant at the time. But both teenagers have grown up hearing that Muslims are murderers —adults say it and then their children repeat it.

## **Fear And The New Wave Of Islamophobia**

Last week, President Barack Obama visited an American mosque for the first time as president, and spoke of the pain that is caused by hurtful words. Though Americans have learned more about Islam since 9/11, the rise of ISIS, or the Islamic State, has sparked a new wave of Islamophobia, the fear of Islam.

"People don't realize you're Muslim, so they think they can make all kinds of remarks without people judging them," said Aasiyah, who does not wear a head scarf, called a hijab.

As a result, some teachers, counselors and school administrators have stepped up to stop the bullying of Muslim youth before it starts.

## **Respect Is Paramount**

Shortly after the Paris terror attacks in November that killed 130 people, Saarah Bhaiji's high school French teacher spoke to her classroom. He wanted everyone to understand the important message, so he spoke in English.

"How could you think what's going on in Paris and what's going on with ISIS is representative of Islam if you have people like Saarah?" she recalls the teacher, Matt Bertke, saying.

Bertke said he wanted to set an example before divisive and hurtful words went viral on Facebook and Twitter.

"Respect — that's the most valuable lesson we could possibly teach," Bertke said. "On all of these social media, it's so easy to see the hatred out there in the world."

## **Balancing Act**

Mohsin Waraich, 18, is a Muslim and a high school senior. A basketball teammate posted an anti-Muslim message on Facebook. Waraich wrote a friendly, private message to the boy to correct his misunderstanding of the faith, but the teammate ignored it and his anti-Muslim posts continued.

Waraich is not afraid to face down people who unfairly speak about his faith, and is not afraid to take a break from video games at a friend's house to go pray. For diversity day on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, he gave two speeches about Islam at his high school.

But for many American Muslim teens, learning how to balance their multifaceted identity can be a challenge.

"For every child, identity is really important: 'Who am I? Where do I fit in?'" said Aliyah Bannister, 28, a Muslim guidance counselor in Chicago. "How does being an American fit in? How does being a Muslim fit in?' You have to resolve all these issues as a youth when you're already feeling that all you want is to blend in."

## **"Building The Spiritual Character Of People"**

Najma Adam is a Muslim social worker. She says hurtful words and actions can cause pain and anger, but it can also help a person learn how to cope, and give young Muslims a chance to look inside themselves. Some may need to distance themselves from their faith to avoid conflicts. Others find that the insulting actions of others move them closer to their faith. "(In Islam) to know yourself is to know God," she said.

"This idea of Islamophobia is in some ways building the spiritual character of people," she continued. "Now, for the first time, they're saying 'What does that mean?' That's a good struggle to have."

Hiyam Abusumayah, 15, is a high school freshman and a Muslim who does not currently cover her head with a hijab, but is thinking about it.

After the December shootings in California that left 14 people dead, a boy in Hiyam's gym class asked her to join his friends' fight against the Islamic State.

When she asked him if he knew what Islamic State was, he said, "it's a bunch of your people, a bunch of towel-headed people." She calmly told him that it was called a hijab, not a towel, and that her mother Amal wears one.

## **Looking For The Positive**

Knowing that future acts of terror could spark new waves of fear, Amal Abusumayah has been working with Chicago leaders to create a program for teachers and students.

"Some of these students being labeled as terrorists don't even know what terrorist means," Abusumayah said. "We need to be careful about what is said around other students."

The same day Obama spoke at the Baltimore mosque, a poll reported that nearly half of Americans said they thought at least some U.S. Muslims are anti-American. Two-thirds of Americans said Islam does not teach violence, but when asked which religion they consider troubling, Islam was the most common answer.

Abusumayah said she urges her children to ask others who make anti-Muslim remarks why they have these ideas.

"There always has to be a positive coming out of this," she said. "When you see somebody hating on you or trying to bully you for something, it's because they're uneducated and they need answers, and this is their way of dealing with it."

## **Teens Encouraged To Speak Up**

Aliyah Bannister asks kids to come up with some smart things to say that do not get them in trouble and leave bullies scratching their heads.



**"With kids it's kind of like a jungle," she said. "You have to show the other children you're not one to be messed with. Bullies go after the kids who are weak and not going to say anything back."**

**Hiyam is still nervous about wearing the hijab, because a woman in a grocery store once tried to pull off her mother's, but she plans to give it another try this summer.**

**"When you wear the hijab, everyone knows you're a Muslim," she said. "They're going to pay more attention to you because you stand out and you're different. I want to stand out and I want to be different. If they think Islam is horrible, I want them to come up to me and ask me about it. I want everyone to know that Islam isn't terrorists."**

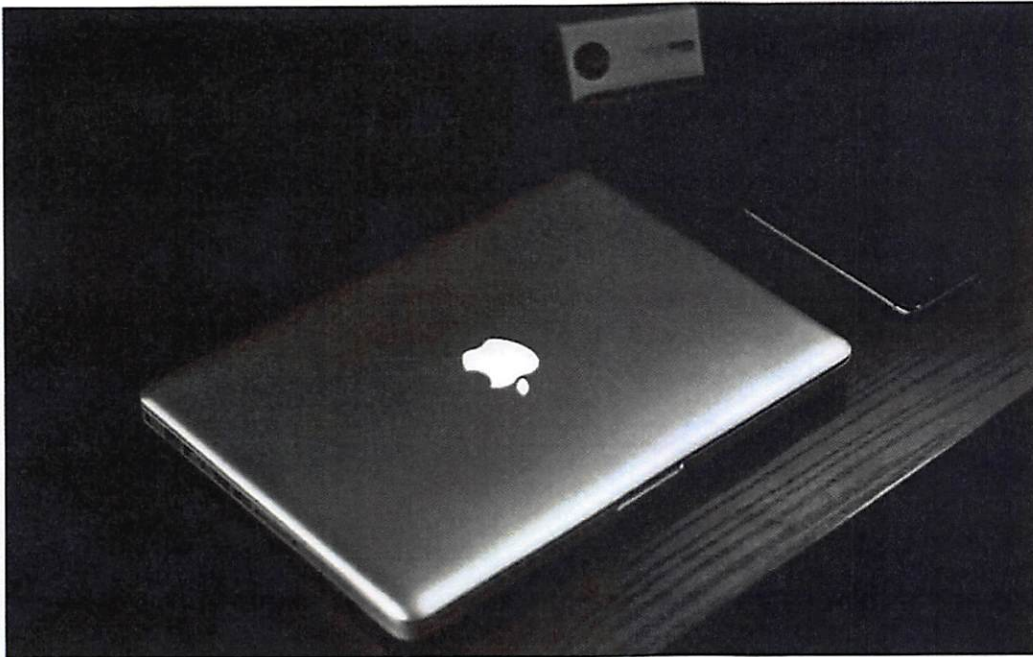
## Business, Technology

# Why The Apple Design Is So Successful

November 24, 2015 | Anastasia | 0 Comments



If you ask analysts, they would have varying opinions on what to credit for Apple's success. Some say it's because of the company having established a pretty much unshakable brand status, and commanding loyalty from its customers. Others say it's mostly down to its premium pricing. Some even go so far as to give all the credit to its founder, the late Steve Jobs. Others are more specific, citing Apple's ability to come up with clean, dependable and quality products. However, if we are to be more precise about it, this would mean that the success of Apple is also hinged heavily on product design.



© pixabay | marcoreyes

In this article, we will discuss the **Apple design principles**.

## APPLE AND DESIGN

Apple counts "design" as a foundation principle – the starting point of the entire product development process. It all started with the vision of [Steve Jobs](#), when he founded a company that will make computers. He was not about to settle for just any design; it had to be better than good. In fact, the design had to be "great".

A CNN story had the world's best designers picking the 12 best designs in the last century (in

iPhone and the iPad. And who could blame them for thinking so? After all, Apple has almost become synonymous with innovative design.

Some of the most notable and bestselling products that have come out in recent decades are from Apple, and the main reason why they were such a huge hit? Their design.

- **Apple II:** This is basically the Apple product that started it all. Sure, there was Apple I before it, but the Apple II stepped it up by becoming a personal computer with an expandable memory, color video graphics, point graphics, memory graphics, and gaming paddles. By adding expandability features to it, it gave users more control and customization power over it. Color graphics in the Apple II easily set it apart from other companies making computing devices. One of the key design points of the Apple II is its sound circuitry, which features a toggle circuit that emits a click through a line-out jack or a built-in speaker. Another is its internal video display generator.
- **Mac:** For most of the computing world, the Macintosh – or the Mac – was what started it all. The graphical user interface used in the Mac, as well as its monitor, keyboard and mouse, made it a worthy personal computing successor to the Apple II. This is also one of the reasons why it was such a big hit, particularly among graphic designers. Soon, everyone wanted that “beige personal computer” for themselves. Of course, this was followed by many recreations of the Mac, but there is no denying that the first one made the most impact, if only for starting a new trend and opening new doors for the business computing world.
- **iMac series:** With the iMac, Apple did away with the tower that has long been associated with the Mac. This resulted to a more compact and space-efficient computing experience, without compromising its computing power. This series of computers provided users with an all-in-one personal computer, with built-in stereo speakers and dual headphone jacks. It is also credited for being the first to have USB ports. Soon, the iMac was released in several fun and flavorful colors, to cater to those looking for more character. The later versions of the iMac also become considerably smaller and slimmer.
- **iTunes:** Considered to be one of the best and most innovative software to come out in the recent half a century – and from Apple – iTunes changed the way people listened to, stored, and shared music.
- **iPod series of products:** This pretty much gave a much-needed facelift to the quintessential mp3 player. It can store hundreds to thousands of songs and was later on tweaked to become an all-encompassing multimedia player where music, videos, and apps can run. The best part of the design? The ease of use that it provides users. It all started with a touch-sensitive wheel, and evolved into a touch-sensitive LCD screen in the iPod Touch.
- **iPhone:** Smartphones were never the same again when Apple launched the iPhone, which was initially dubbed as the “Jesus Phone”. It would then go on to spawn a line of products, with the iPhone 5s taking a major leap forward by becoming the smartphone that can replace a personal computer with its functionalities and features. One of the things users liked about it is how it was designed to have access to a wide range of cheap, and even free, applications. Of course, today, that may be up for some debate, but there is no denying that when it comes to smartphones, iPhone is one of the best.
- **iPad Air 2:** Once again, Apple took the world by storm when it introduced its tablet line, the iPad. However, one of the best releases of this series is the iPad Air 2, since it was designed as the thinnest iPad so far, at only 6.1 mm.



What are the exact reasons for the success of the Apple design, and why are many of its competitors are trying – but most of them failing – to emulate it?

## WHY APPLE DESIGN IS SUCCESSFUL

Groundbreaking. Pioneering. Enduring. All these words apply to the Apple design. One cannot discuss the success of Apple – the company – as a whole without touching on its design philosophies and sensibilities. They would not have been able to have established a cult following, especially among artists and designers, if they are not able to show something solid and, dare we say, earth-shattering, in the field of design.

### 1. Systematic Product Development Process

Apple follows a process for product development that can only be described as logical and systematic. There is an order to everything, and that principle also applies on how it comes up with products. Considering how many of Apple's products have become icons and are still commanding great patronage (and sales) to this day, it is obvious that this system works.

#### **Design is done during pre-production.**

Apple is particular about the design phase being during the pre-production, and *not* post-production. All the design details are formulated and ironed out even before it is placed into production, so it is clear that they have a clear vision on how they want the product to turn out.

This simply means that there is no trial-and-error going on here. While other manufacturers seem to perform design functions throughout the product development process, Apple strictly does everything at the beginning. This is to avoid confusions and veering away from the original vision of the product.

#### **Apple designers are designing for themselves.**

When Steve Jobs started creating products, he put himself in the shoes of the customer. He was the "user" of the Apple product that they will be creating. This is a slight shift from the usual practice of engineers and designers creating products for someone else. They are designing something that they will actually *want* to use, and *will* use, once it has been produced.

In the same way, engineers have made a habit of designing products around a certain technology that is available to them. In short, they are designing for a technology, not for the user. At Apple, they are designing a product, not because they can, but because they actually want that product and cannot live without it.

### 2. Substance over Form

Consumers are easily convinced to buy something that they deem to be pretty or beautiful. Style and appearance are, after all, the first things that register to the naked eye. Thus, it is the one that first gets a



final product would look, physically, but, more than that, the main point of contention is its functionality. Does it work? Does it deliver exactly what the user is looking for? Does it perform as it is expected to?

One of the pitfalls of new companies coming up with new products is wanting to come up with one that looks great, without really seeing if it works. On paper, it looks like the next best thing to come out in recent years, and the marketing even promises that it is so. However, it ends up falling short of expectations.

The focus of Apple design is the full integration of software and hardware, without claiming that it can do everything (and is good at it). It recognizes its shortcomings and instead focuses on what it is very good at.

For example, the iPad does not have USB connectors or external disc drives. Other laptops and notebooks do. The design team over at Apple may not have included these two features in the iPad, but it did make sure that the device performs a specific set of tasks very well, while remaining very user-friendly and intuitive.

### 3. Quality above all

Ask Apple users why they stick to Apple products despite the fact that there are a lot of other, newer, and certainly cheaper alternatives out there, and they will give you a lot of reasons, most of which are centered on design.

#### **A Simple Aesthetic**

As mentioned repeatedly in many discussions and analyses on the Apple design, one of its defining characteristics is simplicity. More than being flashy or eye-catching, Apple designed its products to look clean, simple and straightforward.

Visual simplicity is being practiced by Apple, and this is apparent in the design of its iPhones and iPads. They look clean, the interfaces are free from clutter, and the fonts are elegant and clean as well.

When Apple designs a good-looking product, you can tell that it really is good-looking. Other brands and manufacturers shamelessly copy the design features of Apple products, and they are rarely able to do it right. This is partly a credit to how Steve Jobs instilled within the Apple industrial team an attitude of perfectionism.

Apple creates designs that instill "pride and ownership". Apple products are instantly recognizable at first glance, and they have now become status symbols of sort. This is another proof of how iconic Apple's simple designs are.

#### **Great Attention to Detail**

Part of the reason why it takes a considerably long time for the design teams at Apple to come up with new products is how they pay a lot of attention to every detail of the design. In fact, many long-time

programmed to automatically slow down once the voice dictation feature has been engaged. This is so that it can hear your voice better and more clearly. For sure, this is information that is unknown by many Mac laptop users, but that is just one of the many proofs of how the creative people over at Apple are detailed about the design of their products.

## **Intuitiveness and user-friendliness**

When it comes to understandability and ease of use, Apple successfully integrated these into its products. Apple is heavily credited for introducing the graphical user interface, where users can pretty much do everything in one place, and monitor or track their progress via that interface.

Apple created products that are easy to understand, so that new users rarely, if ever, consult user manuals or guides. Operations were made to be discoverable via menus, and everything can be recovered, in case users committed an error during operation and want to reverse them to an earlier time. In short, users were accorded control and power over the operations of the devices or products.

Granted, lately, there are many criticisms that Apple products are becoming increasingly difficult to understand, learn and operate. However, compared to its peers, Apple remains to be a company that puts great premium on ease of use when designing its products.

## **4. Apple designs for the future**

Apple is a pioneer when it comes to design. It is known that the design team of Apple starts working on a new design two years early. That is quite a head start, considering how the competition is just catching up. So Apple introduces a new, cutting-edge design, competitors try to copy it, but by the time they are able to, Apple is already hard at work – and even more than halfway through – another breakthrough design.

Consumers would naturally want something that is advanced, which is why they would prefer to stick with Apple products instead of the more “outdated” ones.

## **5. Design is a continuous process**

You will notice that Apple does not really invent new products frequently. Apple focuses more on reinventions or recreations, looking for the weak points of an already existing design and rectifying that. making it better.

The mp3 player has already existed when Apple created the iPod; it just came up with a better version of an mp3 player. Tablets have already been in existence when Apple came out with its own version, the iPad. Similarly, the smartphone is not an Apple creation. It's just that Apple successfully revolutionized the concept of a smartphone when it launched its iPhone.

This only goes to show that the design team of Apple is working tirelessly to come up with a design that will make things better and easier for users. Certainly, this level of commitment is part of the reason why the company commands such fervor loyalty from Apple users.

projects. They are basically in charge of anything involving designing. Their efforts and ingenuity have been repeatedly recognized and, in 2012, they were even named as the [Best Design Studio](#) in the past 50 years by D&AD, a global association of creative, design and advertising communities.

It was originally formed by Steve Jobs but is now currently headed by Chief Design Officer Jonathan Ive, who has done so since 1996. It is reportedly a small group, with the core team composed of only around 20 designers. No doubt, at this very minute, these creative geniuses are hard at work, conceptualizing and designing the next Apple product to hit the stores in the near future.

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