

Exploring Engineering Opportunities Activity

There are opportunities all around us. Engineers need to be able to take the frontiers of knowledge and research and make connections to problems that the general population face every day. You will be brainstorming ways that research being done today could impact people's daily problems in the future.

1. Individually find some of the research topics that faculty at your university (optionally, from your chosen major) are interested in. This can be found from their personal or faculty webpages and their publications through JSTOR or Google Scholar. List the research interests of at least two faculty.
2. In groups of 2-3, make a list of problems in the daily lives of the group members (health, daily tasks, everyday annoyances, etc.). If you are feeling stuck, expand out to the problems of your friends, relatives, coworkers, etc.
3. Take your two lists (faculty interests and daily problems) and brainstorm ways that the research topics could potentially impact those daily topics. Be curious! Explore online resources and journal papers on these topics for inspiration.
4. Write a short summary (3-4 sentences) of at least 5 different ideas you have brainstormed together as a group for submission. Summaries need to communicate the concept, the problem it intends to solve, and its connection to current research.