IS
READING IMPROTANT?

We develop a passion for Teaching!

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I was always sort of really interested
in reading when I was a kid um and I
read everything that I could get my hands on I read the encyclopedia probably
age nine or ten well and not that iI actually wanted to read the encyclopedia
but I ran out of things to read so in desperation I read the encyclopedia just
I just sort of I got bored easily and so
unless I was doing something
um like reading or
uh playing a video game or watching tv
and we had like terrible TV in south

Africa it was really bad tv
so there was only at best because there
wasn't that much of it so
boredom yeah so boredom led to a
lot of reading
oh I read thousands and thousands
of books
you know I like the sort of
lord of the rings and the hobbit and
that kind of thing
and I was 14 15 I
started reading reading some of the
the philosophers nietzsche
schopenhauer
that sort of thing
by people like dostoevsky oh brutal
most
the philosophers are really
they're awful I mean they're so
depressing and uh they're just
you know some of the things they
they say

are good ideas and then it's
interspersed with so much rubbish
but I
was sort of you know
early teen years trying to figure out
meaning of the universal and
and very difficult to come up with
anything that wasn't
some piece of arbitrary claptrap
question is harder than the answer
really it's the question that's the
hard
part and that takes a much bigger
computer than earth to figure it out
I think there's some truth to that
when we ask questions there
they come along with all of our
biases and so that
there are so many
things implied
in the question that
you should really ask is that the
right question

and that's very hard to figure out
well I think you learn a lot depending
upon you know whose life you're reading
about um there are lots of lessons in
there I read is Aacson's biography of
jobs which I thought was quite interesting and I actually really liked
his biography of Benjamin Franklin who i
would say certainly one of my heroes he
seemed like a really great guy
since I'm traveling so much and um
that but i often find I'm reading the
books on my I Phone which may sound like
wow this is really tiny but honestly

the
book the book I'm reading which I
was
sort of thinking should I say this or
not but um
it's it's a book on Howard Hughes
you know
maybe a cautionary tale try and
learn as much as much
as possible that allows you to
predict
the future or make the future so
they're
saying is the best way to predict
the future is to make it
just and then
assess whether what you're
learning is
enabling you to predict the future
with less error are you less wrong
we're always wrong to some
degree but can you
reduce the error on your future

predictions I think that's the way to look at education
as of course but it's both creative create the future and predict the future
so that includes art and all those other things
but close the loop on being less wrong about future
I would say that's the right way to think about education
and the way education works right now it's extremely
low bandwidth it's extremely slow lectures are the worst really it was like very slow and I try to predict the
future with less error this is the hot this is very hard as you were saying I'm
not sure it's 99.9 but it's it's not very good generally a prediction of the

future but I think often people don't
try the first thing is try if you don't
try okay
you know got it you got to try and
then and then adjust
based on the error of your prior
predictions
well i studied physics and I'd
certainly strongly recommend
physics as a good
grounding to understand the nature
of reality I mean physics is at
fundamentally just understanding
how does the universe actually
work um and then
that's a good foundation for then a
variety of uh engineering
disciplines and I think
uh also the
the analytical principles the the sort
of analytical constructs used in
physics
uh apply to basically anything

um it's you know Phillips physics developed all
these ways of of thinking like like
first principles thinking uh thinking
about things in the limit uh high
and low um you're testing your
hypothesis you know it's um
the scientific principle essentially
uh
these things are incredibly helpful
in all arenas
yeah well you know there's a lot of
uh
technical problems to solve um
so I guess we sort of you know
started studying kind of
engineering and physics and
biosciences
and that kind of thing would be the
way to go a lot gonna be a lot of
problems to solve to to make a city
work on mars um
we were thinking of just as a

sort of a semi joke putting a
job description on our website for
urban
planner and brackets mars you
know this
there's going to be a tremendous
amount
of problems solved there'll be
there's a lot of building building
and
problem solving so those like the
right
you know skills to work on if if
someone's interested in
going beyond earth or you know
space in general
basically I sort of was thinking
about
this when I was when as a kid and
trying to find some meaning in life
like what's the meaning of life you
know basically universe is the
answer and you

just need to figure out the
questions so i think

um you know that that's if I if I can
help kind of figure out the
questions uh then
that I consider that to be
meaningful.