

In-Class Worksheet

Analyzing the Societal Impact of Technological Solutions.

To understand how engineering decisions influence the distribution of benefits and harms across different segments of society.

Note: Throughout this assignment, consider the full life-cycle of the innovation, from research and development to implementation and eventual obsolescence.

Part 1: Innovation Analysis

1. Which case study did you choose? _____
2. Provide a brief description of the innovation (2-3 sentences):
 - What is its purpose?
 - How is it used?

3. Benefits Analysis:
 - List 3 potential benefits of this innovation.
 - For each benefit, identify which groups in society are most likely to enjoy this advantage.

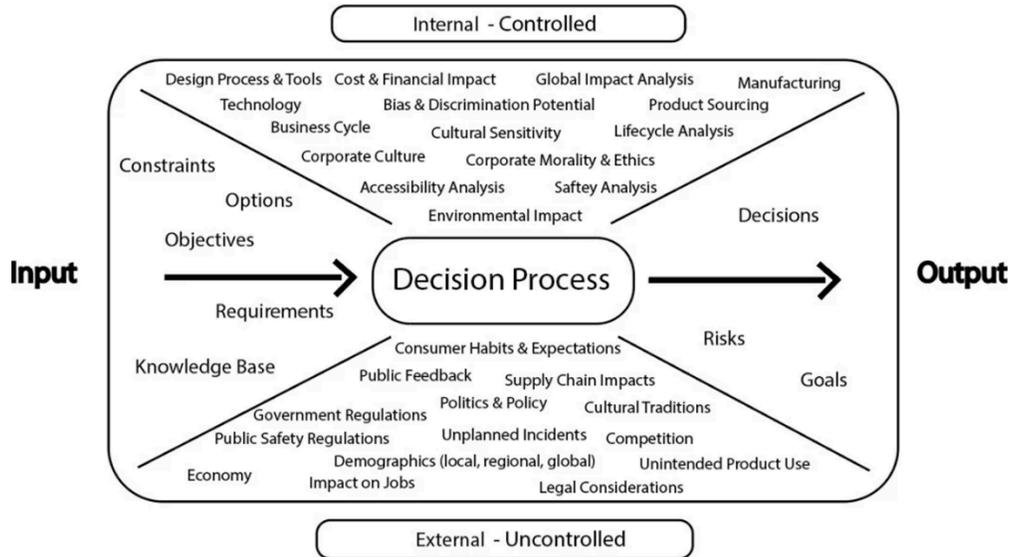
4. Harms Analysis:
 - List 3 potential negative impacts or risks associated with this innovation.
 - For each harm, identify which groups in society are most likely to bear this cost or risk.

5. Distribution Assessment: Based on your analysis, is there an imbalance in how the benefits and harms are distributed across different societal groups? Explain your reasoning.

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Part 2: Decision Making Context

Refer to the below diagram:



1. Identify 3 decision-making contexts from the diagram that you believe were likely considered during the development of your chosen innovation. For each, explain how it might have influenced design choices.

2. Identify 2 decision-making contexts that you believe were overlooked or underemphasized. For each, explain how greater consideration of this context might have led to a more equitable distribution of benefits and harms.

