

1. What is design thinking?

Design thinking is a way to solve or tackle problems in your everyday life. It helps you to explore new alternatives or options. It is centered around the needs of the user and understanding the context and culture of the stakeholders involved. Direct observation is one part of it and qualitative data where people can empathize with. After research, creating prototypes is the next step in design thinking then testing the innovation is last. Empathize, define, Ideate, prototype, and test is the design thinking cycle. With design thinking, greater creativity and better solutions is possible.

2. How has design thinking influenced a product I use?

Design thinking influences products I use because it is addressing a specific need in my life. It can create a great experience for me and at the same time it might be environmentally friendly so it could address more than the user's needs and is different from other similar items or products that cost more. Design thinking helps create products that are more user-centric, innovative, and successful in the market. Design thinking influences products I use with coming up with many prototypes before the right prototype is created from previous trial and error to identify any potential issues early on.

3. What are the connections between opportunities and planning?

There are many connections between opportunities and planning regarding success. Opportunities stem from different sources like trends, technology, needs, or societal changes. Then planning comes in to recognize and assess those opportunities. By analyzing research and evaluating risks and rewards, planning enables individuals or organizations to recognize possible opportunities worth going for. Setting goals is another connection with planning and letting opportunities provide direction for those goals. Resource allocation, mitigating risks, action and execution, and adaptation are other connections between planning and opportunities.

4. What opportunities have I missed?

Opportunities that I have missed and can possibly miss are when I don't take the time to scan my environment and stay up to date on market trends, customer needs, and emerging technologies. Insufficient resources can lead to missed opportunities along with ineffective execution when poor planning is done. To avoid missing opportunities, continuous learning, actively seeking and identifying new opportunities is needed. Flexibility will aid in the planning process and scanning the environment around me will help me be aware that opportunities are all around and to take a step back and observe. Being an active listener to group members will help in not missing opportunities as well.

5. Can a successful venture be unethical?

A successful venture can be unethical although it is not moral in nature. For example, businesses that are successful by engaging in exploitative labor practices with child labor and paying minimum wages can be seen unethical even though these practices may result in cost savings and higher profits. Businesses that prioritize ethical values, social responsibility, and sustainable practices are more likely to build trust, maintain long-term success, and contribute positively to society. It is better to have a successful venture that is ethical because in the long run the business might have to pay for those penalties or have lawsuits against them when those specific unethical allegations are brought up.