**WasteLand (art & globalization & the bottom 10%)**

1. Do you find it true that the garbage pickers should be proud of how they make an “honest” living (vs. prostitution & drug running)? What are some “dishonorable” jobs? (If you use your body in prostitution as a form of finance or tool of self-improvement does that still make you dishonorable? Can you use negative means to accomplish positive ends?)
2. Vik = “I’d rather want everything and have nothing than have everything and want nothing.” Thoughts? Do you agree?
3. What constitutes effective philanthropy (Vik Muniz vs. Bill Gates foundation or just writing a check)?
4. Reflect on Valter’s phrase “99 is not 100 because 1 makes a difference” in some way.
5. Once rich, do you have a moral obligation to give back?
6. Is being elitist something you have to apologize for? How important is empathy towards things you don’t understand?
7. Can artistic expression (xylophone, etc) allow you to overcome trauma and negative circumstances? How do cultures best come to terms with trauma/genocide/horrible chapters in their history? Do you agree: the only end of art is to enable humanity to better enjoy life or to better endure/overcome it?
8. If your art assignment was to select clever materials to help convey your artistic point what would you choose?
9. Are the arts central to human existence or just a secondary hobby?
10. What should we do with obsolete people – Willy Loman, the Chinese riverside farmer in Up the Yangtze, the garbage pickers? Are what appear as “broken” people actually often the strongest?
11. Does globalization sap or allow for an increased sense of humanity and personal dignity?
12. What is the price of progress we should (and shouldn’t) be willing to pay? What cultural history is OK to sacrifice in the name of progress?
13. What are the things you will have to unbuild/unwind that your grandparents and ancestors made?
14. When have you most laid it all on the line to achieve something? (Does this require a competitive realm?) – consider with dance in War/Dance
15. When have you felt yourself most transformed/liberated by an act/task/deed (like dancing in War/Dance)
16. What are the best examples of how art allows you to better see yourself in a new light?
17. Does man through suffering purified? Are we stronger in the broken place (that which does not kill us makes us stronger)?
18. Can one have a successful society without having a cohesive culture (or the arts)?
19. How important was arts education to developing you in your elementary school?
20. Can we create systems that use capitalism to create a social good for the least among us (Robin Hood, The WasteLand, etc)? Can you engineer greed out of the capitalist or corporate world?
21. Can you hold stock in Exxon/Mobil (or Monsanto) and not feel any ethical responsibility for their behavior?
22. Is there beauty to be found in garbage/destruction?
23. Can community/societal progress ever be totally clean/painless?
24. Does all art development require some mentors or instruction? [What are pro/cons of being self taught?]
25. What “soft”/secondary skill sets were developed by doing sports, music, performance art, group work, etc?
26. Why do humans tend to engage in evil they know is evil? [War/Dance, Nuremburg trials]
27. What are the consequences when one isn’t allowed to let their passions fully flower?
28. How important is the artifact (physical object/something tangible) in the power or performance of art?
29. Do you agree: Everything looks perfect from far away.

**TOK/Knowledge stuff (backwards reflections on school/childhood)**

1. When have you most been in the presence/awareness/experience of “wonder”
2. Is there one objective reality?
3. Do you believe in moral progress?
4. What is your favorite undervalued or underexplored career field (like urban design, ethnobiology, street artist, union organizer for garbage pickers, etc)
5. What problems exist when everything is viewed as a commodity (corn, people, farmed fish, NFL prospects) or something to be priced and placed inside an input/output system? Should anything be off limits from this rational, pragmatic economic outlook?
6. Have you had to face suffering/loss/failure enough in your 12 years of schooling? What are some of the benefits/consequences of the excessive testing and its tendency to stigmatize risk taking that might result in nothing/failing? Is pain instructive?
7. What was the most useful course you’ve taken?
8. “If you recall the happiest moments in your life they are all from when you were doing something for somebody else.” – Desmond Tutu. Have you found this to be true?
9. Does lowering expectations correlate with increased happiness? Is ambition a double edged sword?
10. What is the gap between your desired self and you actual self?

**IB stuff**

Does IB allow for (or not) a break in the existing class structure (or are we only teaching rich parents’ kids who will only later become rich too?) OR “Education should foster economic mobility” – Did IB do that?

 “It was the best of times. It was the worst of time” – Was this true about IB, your senior class in total, your teen years… Overall, Can people be trusted to make wise decisions?

**IVORY TOWER / College stuff**

1. Do you feel trapped to take a job that pays off your 100K+ in loan debt (or that you won’t be able to exercise free will and choose the job you most want to do) when you graduate?
2. What are the advantages/disadvantages of a big university like UF versus a small liberal arts school (Deep Springs, etc) in terms of your personal development and life trajectory?
3. How will your goals in why you are at a university diverge from the masses/majority?
4. What are (or should be) the main responsibilities of a university administration?
5. Would you rather be the big fish in a small pond (best student at UCF) or a below average student at Harvard?
6. How many will do study abroad in college or a MOOC? What are good reasons for doing study abroad?
7. Any thoughts on the idea of a “gap year” after HS and whether it is constructive or dangerous idea?
8. Is the C student in Orlando still in a better place than the valedictorian in Buenos Aires in terms of life prospects or is the “world is flat” notion actually the dominant paradigm/reality now?
9. Any comments on grade inflation, the “gentleman’s A” or the shifting power dynamics between the paying university student and the professor?

**Millenials/Generational/Future/Work (forward reflections)**

1. What is the right number of hours to work per week?
2. What are the top 3 things (or unquantifiable attributes) you need to have a good life?
3. What inevitable social changes do you expect in the next 50 years (due to demographic shifts, politics, etc… for examples in immigration, gay/trans issues, etc)?
4. At 60, would you be willing to sacrifice your wisdom for (a return to) youth? At 18, would you sacrifice your youth to be wise?
5. I must be willing to give up what I am in order to become what I will be? (Do you agree with this idea)
6. Does modern society need more defining/revealing/important rites of passage?
7. Can an individual make big $ ethically in the 21st century? Should you feel moral guilt for living better than 95+% of the world?
8. Does your life actually have to serve a global good or push civilization forward or lift mankind up?
9. Is it better to rage against the machine from the outside or enter a possibly flawed system and change it from within (confrontation vs collaboration)?
10. In the year 2050 what will we look back on now and be most ashamed of? (eating meat, NCAA, gender pay, police injustice, what we ate, etc)?
11. Is living at home after college a wise financial move or a sign of failure?
12. If you had to leave home tonight (house burning down, etc) and put everything that important to you in a bag, what would you take?
13. What sort of relationship do you want to have with your material possessions?
14. Do you believe: do what you truly love and the money will follow?
15. Will you be a lifelong learner?