No matter whether the number of humanities majors is dropping or not, it is certain that we need a different approach to these disciplines. Students do not need to make a choice between humanities and more "useful" or "professionally lucrative" fields, like science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Students should consider the ways they are able to bring together humanities and STEM disciplines (along with business, and other non-humanities disciplines) in dialogue and collaboration. Rather than "either/or" it should be "together/with." As many of the experts weighing in on the discussions are wont to remark, while science and engineering can tell us the "what" and "how" of the world, the humanities and social sciences provide insights to answering the "why" -- along with the skills necessary to communicate it all to others. Only by taking these fields together can we help students answer the more compelling and meaningful question of why it all matters, and get to the core of what it truly means to become educated.

But we must also remember that in a world where science and technology advance at record-breaking paces and continue to define our roads ahead, influence works both ways. As much as science and engineering curricula run the risk of being deficient without a humanistic foundation, so too must we ensure that those pursuing the traditional liberal arts obtain a firm grounding in and understanding of science and technology. That includes a familiarity and comfort with all aspects of technology: past, present, as well as possibilities in the future. And most important, students need to work together to try to apply what they learn to help solve the world's pressing problems.