

## **1. Executive Summary**

Engineering has always had a strong stereotype associated with it. This has changed over the years as the roles of engineers have evolved, but it has always contained some very negative traits. These biases arise from both conscious and subconscious manifestations and are responsible for many acts of great detriment, to both the general public and the specific engineers. This report will serve to outline why the stereotype is simply a myth by showcasing four iconic engineers and their diverse lifestyles. It is the role of the community to rise above stereotypes and see people for who they are as individuals. Everyone must be encouraged to be exercising their differences, rejoicing in what makes each individual unique. We will look at both engineers from the past and the modern world. The engineers that we have chosen to analyze are Leonardo Da Vinci, Nikola Tesla, Elon Musk and Henry Ford. They are not all certified engineers and some do not have a formal engineering background, however these are people who all fit the description of an engineer. This is to further illustrate the point that engineering is much more broadly encompassing, than one might originally think.

Leonardo's artwork has greatly contributed to the art society and his personality definitely breaks the traditional mold of engineers. He enjoys court performance while engineers usually tend to shy away from attention.

Nikola Tesla has made great contribution in the field of electrical engineering, especially his invention of alternating current (AC). Tesla defies traditional stereotypes of engineers by demonstrating his effectiveness in leadership, including soft skills. Furthermore, he is linguistically diverse and has broad interests.

Elon Musk's countless contributions to society is described in order to justify him as an engineer. His eccentric character which defies most engineering stereotypes is then looked at in order to argue that he is indeed breaking the mould.

Henry Ford is primarily known for his assembly line, which was an incredible development for mass production and an economic standpoint. He also founded the Ford Motor Company. Henry Ford was a business aficionado with an affinity for innovation

The report aims to conclude that the reason for engineering stereotypes is that engineers are being confined to the definition of an engineer stated in the requirement for certifications. In order to change this norm, we suggest that the engineer label take into consideration the broad spectrum of individuals that fall under the definition of engineer that come from its roots. With this, our goal is to change the way engineers are labelled in order to work towards a world where engineers are not stereotyped as all 'engineers' come from various backgrounds and have a range of different personalities.