Dear Aaron,

God, Physics, The Universe, Nature—check one or all of the above—has pressed pause. Seems like a good moment to quiet down, take stock, listen, look up, look out, look over. Look. I have so many questions.
Maybe you know some folks who might want to take a stab at answering them.
I've been thinking a lot about technology.
How it can be at once dazzling and destructive.

I wonder: do you ever feel imprisoned by having too many choices?

Do I watch BoJack Horseman, or do I watch Succession? Parks & Rec or Westworld? The British Office or the American Office?

And should I listen to Kendrick Lamar or Modest Mouse or Adele or Sonic Youth or Thelonious Monk or Carlos Kleiber conducting Brahms Symphonies, or or or or or or ???

Do you feel me?

Does this glut of choice make you think differently about democracy? Does democracy seem less important? Is that why young people can't be bothered to vote?

Or to put a finer point on it: you have all these choices in your daily life as a consumer—does that make you less enthusiastic about having to take responsibility when it comes to electoral politics?

(The sound of gears shifting, the death rattle of internal combustion.)

What does the 1st Amendment mean to you?
Have you ever felt like your 1A rights were being violated?
How should companies like Facebook reckon with their tremendous power as arbiters of the public square? Is Facebook the new “public square”? Should it be subject to standards that we use for traditional media outlets?

What about algorithms?
Can an algorithm be neutral?
Can the people who write algorithms be neutral?
Should they be neutral?

In a world in which there is far too much content created at any given moment for it to be sorted, organized, vetted, and ranked by humans, are we comfortable with artificial intelligence making decisions about which voices do and do not reach us?

Would you reconsider the ways in which you engage with social media if you knew that it could change the outcome of elections? For example, would you give up Instagram if you knew that its absence would lead to less meddling (by algorithms and bad actors alike) in the political process?

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Is efficiency important to you?  
Do you believe that there are any drawbacks to efficiency?  
What is more important to you, depth or speed?  
Depth or volume?  
Have you read “The Library of Babel” by Jorge Luis Borges?

Can you think of any instances in which convenience has a hidden cost?

Do you perceive a relationship between our preference for convenience on the one hand, and our inability to fully face the threat of climate change on the other?

Feel free to answer any/all/none of these questions.

So long, friends,

Gabriel