

Anna Michelitch

## Short Assignment #2

Some of the key techniques that I used to replicate the spoken word included repetition, personification, and lots of punctuation. I am a huge proponent of using semicolons and dashes in my writing as I believe that they emulate the natural pauses and intakes of breath that are key characteristics of orators. I also tried to inject a few familiar word formulas (“precious time”, “beautiful nature”, “true happiness”) for a reader to latch onto, as according to Ong, epithets were a natural trait of oral culture. Additionally, repetition allows for cadence and extra emphasis on certain concepts, and I used this tool heavily. I also tried to place the focus of my monologue (happiness) in a context of the “human lifeworld” (Ong) by using verbs such as “grasp” and “discover”, suggesting happiness is not an abstract concept but a physical treasure to be discovered.

A challenge that arises every time I start writing is my tendency to pad my words with extra verbiage. Even in this paper, I’ve had to go back and truncate many sentences to make them more precise. Additionally, this monologue is the first real composition that I have handwritten (discounting notes and homework) in my entire college experience; everything else has been typed. This is because typing seems to be the only medium that can even attempt to keep up with the constant flow of thoughts in my brain. My biggest obstacle with handwriting is trying to keep up with my own mind – by the time that I manage to articulate a thought and physically put it onto paper as a sentence, the next idea has already flown away. I constantly lose track of where I’m headed and where I want to go next. To combat these issues during this assignment, I would repeatedly reread every sentence I had written back to myself aloud. This allowed me to get back on track and make changes when I didn’t like how a sentence sounded.