# 9/27 Week 1

***Observe and describe*** *a variety of experiences where you feel particularly* ***immersed****–in any or all of the senses we discussed today. Were you reading an article, having a deep thought on your own, hearing or playing music, playing a game, solving a problem? Were you passively observing or actively involved? What aspects made these activities engaging? compelling? captivating? What elements were involved? What techniques were in operation?*

I have always found myself most immersed in books. I like reading at night. I can’t count the number of times that it has been eleven or twelve, and I finish a chapter and I look to the nearest clock and think, “It’s only (\*insert reasonable time here\*), I can read one more chapter.” Only to repeat the process an hour later, and then another, and then another. Eventually that reasonable time becomes something quite unreasonable, like two or four or six in the morning and although I know on some level how that happened, all I can do is scratch my head and ask how it happened.

I just enjoy losing myself in a story. To a lesser extent, I do it with tv and gaming too. If I’m noticing the medium as a medium, there is a problem. But if I can substitute my senses for the senses of the characters, my thoughts for the thoughts of the characters, my emotions with the thoughts of the characters, I’m having a good time.

***Observe and describe*** *times when you are engaged in some forms of* ***analyzing****. Were you working on homework? Are you making a decision about what bus to catch? What show to watch? Are you making judgements about your friends or family? How do you decide what to order at a restaurant? How do you approach solving a difficult technical problem? Do you have certain analysis habits? Do you notice other people approaching problems in different ways? How do you know that your approach is the effective? Do you use multiple approaches?*

Analysis happens all the time, but where I notice it is in writing. I do creative writing, and I find I do it in one of two ways. Either things are just happening, words are flying off my fingers and there is no effort. The keyboard, in such situations is an extension of my mind. There is very little analysis in this kind. This is more like my lost immersion I mentioned above.

The more analytical style of writing is when I notice the process of writing. When I am looking at sentence structure and noticing patterns and word use. The best of times, my writing as a whole improves. The worst of times, I stall out, every configuration of words are wrong, and nothing gets written.

# 10/5 Week 2

***Write a short response describing the [VR] experience,*** *the interactions, the visuals, the sounds. What did you like or not like? What aspects felt realistic, interesting, immersive, engaging, off-putting, ...? Does VR provide you with something that cannot be replicated in more common media formats?*

I was totally sold on VR. I’ve never done it before and it was amazing. I didn’t do anything more than the initial demo, and for a lot of it I didn’t have full control, but I had an amazing time just looking around the scene. I liked the not quite real visuals and the sound was amazing. I actually jumped the first time a bunch of stuff moved around me and the noise came from behind me. I wanted to explore further, but since it was the demo I was unable to.

It isn’t perfect though, there are things I definitely wish were different. For example, I’m not a fan of the teleporting movement system. I don’t like it and wish that I had more granular control of my position. I liked the preset positioning even less. The headset also doesn’t fit super well so it slips around, causing things to be a little blurry. Also, if you move too fast things get a little dizzying (too low frame rate?).