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Reader Response Journal #3

**Directions:** Read the assigned selection, section or chapters. In the first column, summarize the key points that the author makes. Do not simply write the author’s words *verbatim*, rather summarize his or her ideas. In the second column, record your thoughts, feelings, and questions you may have about the selection you read. Use the last column to identify 3 main ideas from what you read and discussed.

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| What the text says… | What I think… | Identify 3 Key Main Ideas From The Reading… |
| Chapter 5 of *The Invisible Gorilla* explores the illusion of causation and how people often assume that certain associations are correlated even though they are not. The author(s) bring up a good point about how some people are “anti-vaccine” and believe that childhood immunizations cause autism. These people claim that this belief is backed by “scientific evidence”, but there is no real scientific evidence, and they are basing their beliefs off coincidental events. Chapter 6 talks about the illusion of potential and how people think our brain’s potential can be unlocked easily, but it actually takes a lot of time and dedication. The author(s) bring up the Mozart Effect, where parents think that playing Mozart would make their babies smarter, and the Lumosity lawsuit, where the Lumosity company claimed that playing its games would delay age-related cognitive impairment. | I often experience the illusion of causation in my daily life. When an unexpected event occurs, I sometimes investigate the past and try to find similar events to find a correlation. For example, the traffic light in front of my house often takes a long time to turn green. And sometimes, if the car moves a little bit forward, the light turns green. I deduced that there is a sensor to detect if there was a car waiting, but after a few more stops at this light, I found out that the light takes a long time because there was no sensor, and I assumed a correlation between the two. I don’t recall any times where I experienced the illusion of potential, but the Chinese people have some beliefs about food and how eating certain foods can increase your intelligence, and my parents have passed them on to me. | 1. When certain events occur, people tend to assume patterns rather than randomness. 2. The only way to determine causation is to run an experiment and many randomly test subjects, and only then causation can be deduced. 3. Unlocking your brain’s potential is no easy task – it takes a lot of time and dedication, unlike the common belief that it can be done easily |