1. Each aspects of a great essay is infused throughout Wallace’s essay in a strategic manner: introduce a scenario and incorporate physical and psychological aspects to describe the event in detail, then describe his view of the same scenario, using intellectual and emotional aspects. He finally closes the essay with something the readers to think about, adding emotional and intellectual aspects to the essay. Some examples:
   1. “…and the store’s hideously, fluorescently lit, and infused with soul-killing Muzak or corporate pop.” -Physical
   2. “Of if I’m in a more socially conscious form of my default setting, I can spend time in the end-of-the-day traffic jam being angry and disgusted at all the huge, stupid lane-blocking SUVs and Hummers and V12 pickup trucks burning their wasteful, selfish, 40-gallon tanks of gas…”-Psychological
   3. “…or that the Hummer that just cut me off is maybe being driven by a father whose little child is hurt or sick in the seat next to him, and he’s trying to rush to the hospital, and he’s in a much bigger, more legitimate hurry than I am – it is actually I who am in his way.” -emotional
   4. “If you’re automatically sure that you know what reality is and who and what is really important – if you want to operate on your default setting – then you, like me, will not consider possibilities that aren’t pointless and annoying.” -spiritual
   5. “It is about simple awareness – awareness of what is so real and essential, so hidden in plain sight all around us, that we have to keep reminding ourselves, over and over: ‘This is water, this is water.’ “ -Intellectual
2. “This is Water” features an idea that I have learned to live by ever since a couple years ago, that the life you live is perceived by the way you perceive it. You choose to see an event in a negative light because that is “your default setting” but you could definitely choose to look from a different angle, because “The capital-T Truth is about life before death.” Therefore, I think the thesis is semi-explicit.
3. When Wallace states “This is water, this is water” I naturally replaced water with “life”, ending with a phrase “this is life, this is life.” Relating back to the beginning of the story, there is a short introduction of two fishes, with one single fish heading the opposite direction asking the other two “Morning, boys, how’s [life].” It seems to me, as it is a commencement speech, a way for the readers/listeners to mature, to always consider other options and take into account that others have a life as intricate and difficult as your own. So “what the hells is [life]?” “It is about simple awareness – awareness of what is so real and essential…” Wallace want to emphasize that the life you live is based on your own choices, not the job you have taken, nor the passion, but the awareness of your surroundings, because “this is [life].”
4. When my family hit an all time low, both financially and morally, I didn’t have a choice but to think about my own life, rather than my family’s. I wanted to quit feeling depressed every morning, wondering about my “awful life” and “unlucky faith”, and decided to always look at the bright side. The solution: I started to hide my struggles with comedy. The happiness and laughter of others tend to always brighten the mood, and this practice of allowing my vulnerable aspects of myself open to others taught me an important lesson: life isn’t awful; it’s my view of life that makes it awful. I learned to put myself in other’s shoes which helps me steer them into future happiness. I’m no life coach but who doesn’t want to see other’s happy? So, when I read “This is water”, he described in detail why I act the way I act today. He helps me organize my thoughts and continue to expand on it, a catalyst per say. Needless to say, it did make a difference in my life.