

Week 8 Notes – 8 Nov 2017

In-class Writing:

How do you feel today?

What images do you remember from *Sans soleil*? Write as many as you can.

What images do you remember from *La jeteé*? Write as many as you can.

What images do you remember from other films you've seen in your life?
Write as many as you can.

What characteristics make an image in a film memorable?
Why do you remember some images from films well and forget others?

What do you think makes an image in writing memorable?
How is this similar or different from what makes a film image memorable?

Sans soleil discussion:

Why does he use the conceit of the female voice-over, reading letters in the past tense, from the filmmaker?

How would the film be different if the film was read in Marker's voice, and he said directly "I think this, I think that"

Read Marker's answer to this:

<https://chrismarker.org/chris-marker/notes-to-theresa-on-sans-soleil-by-chris-marker/>

Rough drafts:

Trade rough drafts and read your classmate's draft.

Read your classmate's draft once all the way through.

Then go back over it again and do the following:

1. Find an image that you think is memorable/vivid/illuminating.
Put a star next to it. Copy it down in your own notes.
2. Find two places where you think a more detailed/specific image or example would help you see/feel what the author is trying to say (two moments of "telling" rather than "showing").
Circle these places.

Give the draft back to the author.

HW for 22 Nov:

We won't have class next week, 15 Nov, but please UPLOAD Draft 1 of your essay to IS by this date (more info below).

Writing: "The Zone"

(You may want to watch again the part in *Sans Soleil* where he talks about how his "friend" (in reality, it was Marker himself) put his favorite animals the cat and the owl into a video game (from about 56:30 to 100:00))

It's important to take the subjects you are interested in, and love, and are close to, and put them into different eyes, different contexts—to find a unique angle from which to view them. Your essay will become richer, deeper, and more exciting if you can get in the habit of seeing your subject in many different ways.

WRITE a paragraph (or more) in which you put the subject of your essay into a different "zone." Try to put it into a new and surprising context, or view it from an entirely new angle.

Three ideas for how to do this:

1. Imagine your subject as a video game. Describe the game. What would be the objective?
2. Imagine your subject and your classmate's essay subject "meet" in the same essay. How would they react to each other? (How would a dancer think of virtual reality?)
3. Take the image you copied from your classmate and imagine this sentence is in YOUR essay. How would you use it? What would you

write before it or after it? If you weren't in class, you can also try doing this with a quote from ANY source.

Reading:

I've uploaded to IS a copy of the book *19 Ways of Looking at Wang Wei* by Eliot Weinberger. Weinberger looks at 19 different translations of one famous ancient Chinese poem, and gives a short commentary on each one.

You don't need to read the "Further Comments" by Octavio Paz, but if you enjoy the idea of the book you may find these interesting too.