

The majority of good natured people I have met that don't have an evil reason to them are those who live life passively.

I disagree with the concept of "An unexamined life."

As long as you are experiencing, then you are adding to the concept of life.

What I'm saying is that being active isn't the most important thing in life. While it seems more beneficial to be active than passive in living life, being passive isn't worthless.

My favorite journalist co-worker said he read things passively. Successful people can live passive lives.

It is rewarding just to be. To live and to live more from just living before is a great gift of life we are all naturally given.

But what do you do with that knowledge and how should one live? It all depends on how you read...

### **Being Active**

There are two main types of reading: analytical and syntopical.

Analytical asks how is life being lived right now and how can I live more of life right now?

Syntopical asks how has life lived before or will be lived in the future and how can I live more of life right now?

Most other types of reading can fit in those two categories. Thinking of a time that reminded you of the present? Oh, that's syntopical. Thinking of why a person is doing something? Oh, that's analytical. Thinking of imagery that was laid out to you? Oh, that's analytical.

Basically, just think of the present (or the past and future) and say, "How did we get here (or there) and how can I live more of life right now?"

### **Being Passive**

Now that I have taught you the active ways of reading, here comes a warning: Before we know it, our past decisions influence our future selves.

Trying to be active in your reading means at one point you will become passive at it by nature of experiencing the effort so many times before.

As I said before, it is important that you never forget who you are.

The reason I got mad at a class for not knowing what they wanted out of this course is because I thought that meant they didn't know themselves. I may be wrong, but I will argue this: life will pass you by if you don't grab it. If you don't grab it, the decision of who you are will be decided for you. Here's my warning: know what you are grabbing at by identifying if the type of person who grabs it is who you truly are. It is important that you never forget who you are before you act.

At some point, we have to grab things and make our life out of those actions. Being totally passive means you let your nature take over and your actions will be a true reflection of yourself. Being both passive after being active and being active means you will have life as a decision, and many decisions it will be. By forgetting to forget you will actively have your will as your life instead of your nature.

For good or for bad, people have to become active at some point in their life. Be certain of who you want to be before you allow your will to choose your life instead of letting motion move you. If you're lucky you will let yourself be you without consideration of who you want to be, because even that involves using your will. You will be because you be, and there's no other way for you to be.

I'll say it again, my favorite journalist – that I've met – read passively, which is to mean he lived passively as well in my eyes. And, I don't think he actively tried to use knowledge to form his will about his life. In fact, he seemed of the type that let things pass him by, in a good way. In other words, he had the motion of the moment dictate who he should be. As far as I'm concerned, he was a whole person – he was not influenced by wanting. Nothing was wanted by him. Everything just happened with him. All within the constraints of his nature.

He wrote well because he didn't want. He just needed to live.

Be passive or active. Just know this. The only requirement of living is to live. Anything else and you begin to let wanting and willing into your life. Getting to choose life is a bunch of decisions. The reporter I knew, he didn't decide but yet he lived. That is to say, there was no way he could be anything else but his true self. As soon as we get to decide, that is the day we forget to forget. Particularly, we never forget to forget that we can want or will a certain life.

Keep in mind, he is a constrained individual and lives a life without holes in his philosophy. While he may forget, he will never contradict himself.

To not contradict yourself while you live is a sign of success. It means your word is your word and things will happen as you say they will. But keep in mind, the reporter never willed things to happen a certain way he wanted; he just flowed with the moment remembering that it's okay to forget if you remember who you are and never falter from it.

It is within your power to do good or to do evil. But as I said at the beginning of this essay, the people I know that live doing good are those who are truly passive.

You can be good while being active, but it is harder to know if you're making the best choice for good and easier to place the blame on anyone but yourself when you make a mistake living actively.

Do whatever it is in life that you are meant to do, but seriously consider if you want life to be wanted or live life just because you're living it...

Based on this essay, what do you think my answer will be to the trolley problem? A link of what it is is located on this link to a youtube video explaining what it is.

You get to replace one participation grade for just doing this 10 minute assignment. You get to replace two participation grades, or add two participation grades, if you guess my answer to the trolley problem.