*Into The Wild* Ideas Journal

As we read *Into The Wild*, you’ll need to read/watch supplementary texts that ask you to consider ideas connected to topics in the book. You’ll need to type insightful responses to these texts (keep a journal) and meet a few checkpoints.

**Entry 1:** Timeline/Expectations Questions (based on texts examined in-class; link is on class website in the ITW tab):

Provide thoughtful responses to the following questions based on the discussion and excerpts we examined in class:

1. Many excerpts argue that “affluent” or “well-off” kids don’t really question the “system,” or their parents, or their schools, enough. Do you agree? What do you think about that?

2. The article argues that the “achieve at all costs” mentality can be harmful. Do you feel parents and schools (maybe enough you) push the “achieve at all costs” idea too far? Do you tie your self-worth to achievements? What do you think about this?

3. Do your parents/the school/you have too narrow a definition of success? Do these groups care more about material “success” than long-lasting happiness and satisfaction? What’s the right combination of success and happiness? Should we be worried about what you put on your timeline?

**Entry 2:** [“The Generation That Doesn’t Remember Life Before Smart Phones”](http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/a17931/technology-american-teenager/) Read this article and answer these questions:

1. What do you think about the discussion of the “ghost”? What do you agree or disagree with about that?

2. What’s a quote you agree with? Explain.

3. What’s a quote you disagree with? Explain.

4. Do you agree with how this article portrays teenage life in 2015/2016? Explain. What is this ultimately saying about teens today? Adults today? How is this similar or different from your own experience?

**Entry 3:** Happy Doc, [Happy TED Talk (Link)](https://www.ted.com/talks/robert_waldinger_what_makes_a_good_life_lessons_from_the_longest_study_on_happiness), & Happiness Emails

According to the happiness emails so far (gohighbrow.com), the Happy Doc, the Happy Ted Talk, and the articles we read for the Happiness Essay, what are some of the biggest points about what truly makes people happy? In other words, what are the keys to being happy that you’ve learned so far? Make sure to reference sources and be specific. This should be a thorough, specific response (2-3 thorough, insightful paragraphs).

**\*\*\*DUE DATE FOR ENTRIES 1-3:** **DUE THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th**. This means that you need to PRINT OUT Entries 1-3, with your name, and bring them to class to hand in to Mr. D. Please don’t email documents. Print at school or at home.

**Entry 4:** [Vlog Brothers “Success”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjiMvcCzDBQ#t=208) and [“You Are Not Special”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lfxYhtf8o4)

Watch the two short videos above and answer these questions:

1. In a sentence, what’s the main point of the Vlog Brothers’ “Success” video? In sentence, what’s the main point of the “You are Not Special” graduation speech?

2. Do you mostly agree or disagree with these arguments? Explain.

3. How do these speeches relate to each other? How do they relate to the other articles and things we’ve been reading/watching?

4. How do the Vlog Brothers “Success” video and the “You Are Not Special” speech relate to Into the Wild? What would Krakauer and McCandless say about these videos?

**Entry 5:** [Unplugged Tourism](http://motherboard.vice.com/read/tourism-is-capitalizing-on-our-addiction-to-technology-with-unplugged-hotels?utm_source=nextdraft&utm_medium=email)

Read the article above. Then, answer these questions:

1. When you are on vacation or doing something for entertainment, are you often on your phone? Do you ever feel the need to “detox”? How about the rest of your family when you’re on vacation or doing something for entertainment?

2. Have you ever done a media/cell phone detox? Explain. If not, do you think you’d benefit from one? Why or why not?

3. What do you think it says about our culture that we have vacations specifically geared toward “digital detoxes”? In what ways is this good/bad? What do you think about this?

4. Be specific about the ways that Krakauer and/or McCandless would react to this article.

**Entry 6:** Journal Reflection

1) This journal touched on a lot of different ideas: Expectations for Success, Technology Use, and Happiness are three big ones. In your own words, how are these three things related? After reading/watching these texts and doing your own thinking, in 2017, how do success, happiness, and technology relate to each other?

2) Outside of happiness, success, and technology, what’s something ELSE that emerged from these texts that you thought was important or interesting? Explain.

3) If all this research exists out there about what really brings us happiness, why do you think so many people are reporting being so unhappy? Why don’t we all just “listen to the research” and make positive changes in our lives? More personally, will doing any of this reading/thinking about happiness make you change anything that you do/think? It’s hard to make big changes to the way we live our lives, but do you see yourself committing to any small changes to make yourself happier in the future?

**\*\*\*Due Date for Entries 4-6:** **DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH**. This means that you need to PRINT OUT Entries 4-6, with your name, and bring them to class to hand in to Mr. D. Please don’t email documents. Print at school or at home.