

machinations

jonannah rogers

Dear Mother Dear Father Dear  
Rhonda Dear Bill

I am writing I am being I am  
saying I am here I am and  
therefore I want to tell you that I  
am here you are not here, which  
is of course why I am writing. If I  
were to write as someone else,  
these letters might seem strange.  
So instead, I will write as myself  
and tell you things that you  
expect to hear from me. The  
house is \_\_\_\_\_. The sky is  
\_\_\_\_\_. The price of potatoes in  
Albuquerque is \_\_\_\_\_. If you  
put celery in your potato salad, it  
means you are \_\_\_\_\_ and  
must be \_\_\_\_\_. The color  
of my bedspread, which is made  
of a medium weight fabric,  
reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_.  
However, the sheets, printed  
with rainbows, are the same as  
those I had at home as a child.  
Why did you decide to paint that  
room black? How often did we  
drive to Canada?

If =

As =

Is =

Then =

surveillance and monitoring

What the Data Say

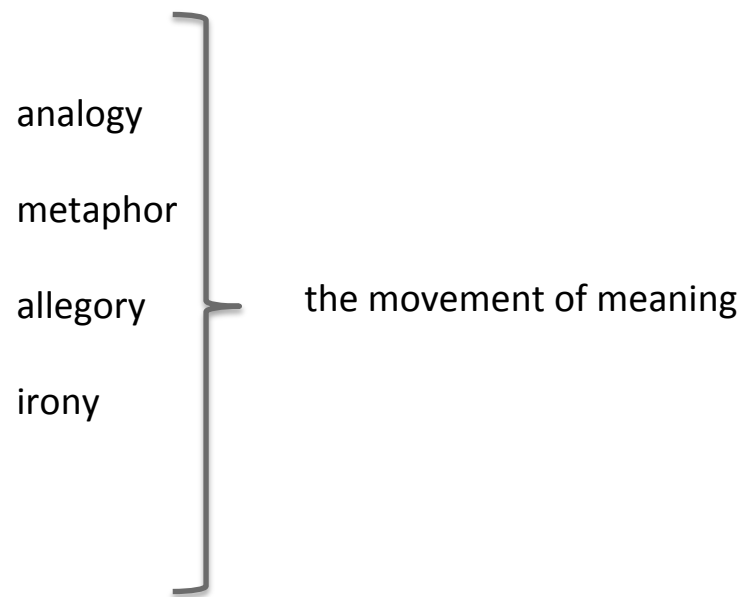
tracking human potential by zip  
code

In the description of an engine,  
there are many moving parts.  
How one part relates to another  
at any point in time cannot be  
easily represented through  
drawings. Instead, a language of  
signs needs to be created:

How are words like  
numbers?

Are numbers ever like  
words?

Taking an impression in light



a text is what it does

word processing



to be odd is to be one or three is to be separated  
by two is to be the distance between forty three  
and forty five is to be middle aged is to be  
between birth and death is to be living is to be  
alive is to be not dead is to be breathing is to be  
respirating is to be alternating pressure levels in a  
closed system is to be exchanging is to be  
bargaining is to be gaming is to be gambling is to  
be risking is to be trying is to be annoying is to be  
difficult is to be hard is to be dense is to be thick  
is to be wide is to be longer than you are tall is to  
be squat is to be sitting is to be relaxing is to be  
recuperating is to be healing is to be post-injury is  
to be relieved is to be lucky is to be fortunate is to  
be at the right place at the right time is to be  
there is to be here is to be present is to be  
showing up is to be not absent is to materialize is  
to condense is to precipitate is to rain is to come  
down from the sky is to land is to bottom out is to  
finish is to complete is to wrap up is to encase is  
to cover is to put a lid on is to seal is to separate  
is to divide is to cut in half is to amputate is to  
sever is to cut ties is to snip is to trim is to make  
shorter is to reduce is to minimize is to make less  
than is to siphon off is to drain is to empty is to  
void is to cancel is to end is to finish is to  
complete is to conclude is to sum up is to add is  
to combine is to mix is to stir is to move is to sully  
pronounce is to reproduce

“Verbal,” as Arthur Treacher famously said,  
“refers not to spoken language but to written  
language.”

one perspective that can be placed in relation to  
other perspectives

Do you want to write for humans or machi

Kant says that the world is  
Hegel says that, too  
Emerson says that every summer will have its flies

A human. A rat. A picture. How many trees. This is what the room looked like. Lou Reed slept there. He was studying lyrics from Tom Jones songs translated into French. To look at the world from the perspective of a nineteen year old is to \_\_\_\_\_. Teenagers are meant to challenge you. People are meant to \_\_\_\_\_. In society. In history. As a result of. In theory. Books are. Paintings are. Be specific. In the painting of a boat, you must begin with an understanding of its functions. To carry. To transport. To float. To explore. It takes 400,000 bricks to build a tenement building in New York City. There are upwards of five billion bricks on the island of Manhattan. Each was made by hand. My cardigan has a hole in it. Silver nitrate is poisonous and may be explosive. You cannot order it online from B+H Photo. You can purchase it online from eBay. Owners. Operators. Rodents. Hamsters. For the equitable distribution of wealth, you count up the number of people on the planet and divide the total number of assets in existence by that number. Spreadsheets could be used but are not necessary. Do you have a calculator? Of course, if I have then I have. Twelve hour days. Bricks made by children. The lunchbox ritual was an interesting one and involved a child bringing the lunch to the factory. In 1850. In 1910. In 2015.

What's in a word: alienation, ideology, hegemony

It is so difficult to be anyone other than yourself it is very curious that we often do not feel or do not act like ourselves

A category mistake: a cat is not a chicken



These things we tell ourselves. High and low. Definitions versus determination. Whose categories matter? Your framework versus mine. At the very highest levels of abstraction, we are whatever our yoga instructor says we are. In the search for meaning, it is important not to seek in too wide a field. Refractions. Deflections. Light. Where one's pupils are. The shape of one's nose. "I've got your number": the world as represented in the language of the 1970s. There is always something to say even if sometimes that does not seem to be the case. Listen to the voices in your head. They will tell you what to write.

Dear Mr. President, Vice President, Chairman of the Board, Director of Operations, Controller, Comptroller, Head of Accounting, Things are not working. I feel that there are some changes that need to be made. The why and how and whether appears to be unmoored. Could you fix them for me? If they are dislodged, their re-affixing should be fairly simple. However, if this displacement has occurred as a result of other causes, my question may not have a simple resolution. Why am I asking? Because someone has to know and based on your title and extensive managerial experiences as director or principle or person in charge or one who decides I thought, or believed, though mostly hoped, that you could provide an answer.

the silence  
of  
numbers;  
the sound  
of 2

Seen from outer space, the contours of the worlds' hottubs form an image of \_\_\_\_\_. But the hot tub is actually a v e r y a n c i e n t phenomenon, albeit one that was formerly a site of public meeting and bathing, not a private meeting space that facilitated the growth of bacteria, required frequent cleaning with chemicals, and generally became a site of disuse, the debris from trees and waste products from various animals collecting in the vinyl covers used to protect the sacred warm waters from being soiled.

Albumen of  
silver,  
the world  
reflected in  
an (h)omlette

“It is not infinite replication that is the most radical aspect of a uniform digital platform for communication, it is the assumptions made about languages and their interchangeability.” (Drucker)

the sun  
and the  
planets

the stars  
and  
the tides

It is a control panel. It is a production center. In this course assumptions about the nature and purpose of education will be made. You are here to enrich the state of New York, enrich me and my superiors, and enrich your future employers.



Writing is and is not word processing.  
The degree to which it may or may not  
be depends on your framework for  
understanding the nature and purpose  
of languages, the nature and purposes  
of education, and the nature and  
purposes of society.

Hello. I think I can help you with that. Please wait just one moment while I look up that information. I won't be able to hear you while I do this. Hello. I'm sorry I didn't understand what you said. Could you repeat that? Please tell me why you are calling. In a few words... Did you know? Have you heard? Before I connect you... Could you just? However, before I transfer you, I just need a little more information.

What are you doing?  
How are you doing?  
When are you doing?  
Why are you doing?

Fear lives in the stomach and is \_\_\_\_\_.

saran wrap detaching from  
whatever vessel it is supposed  
to be enclosing and a hovering  
above the ground; an overall  
sickness; just sick; systemic  
s i c k n e s s ; u n c e r t a i n t y ;  
hesitation; the light is grayish in  
color and flat;

How quaint. How lovely. How sad. How tragic.  
How unjust. How disappointing. How ever. How  
so. How unfortunate. How disconcerting. How  
final. How much. How little. How long. How  
when. How in the meantime. How typical. How  
sorry. How then. How finally. How unfortunately.  
How even. How impractical. How to.

Say thank you. Say I don't know. Say the annual research and development budget for this pen exceeds my lifetime earning potential. Say I say the same things over and over again. Say this pen is slippery. Say the visual effects of industrial products can be spectacular. Say we are all salesmen. Say pistol. Say stamen. Say he signs his name with a sketch of a bird that may be an insect. Say I went to Chili's once. Say the sounds and shapes of today are bothering me. Say who's listening. Say who cares. Say fascinating. Say intriguing. Say plastic. Say cardboard. Say wallpaper. Say asymptote. Say twenty years is a long time to still be feeling the same way. Say it is a long time in general. Say black and white

a cipher is a code is a message is a command is a statement is a saying is a cliché is a snapshot is a picture is a scene is an argument is a proposition is a law is an edict is a given is a something is an object is a vase is a pitcher is a container is a vessel is a ship is a boat is a means of transportation is a conveyance is a motion is a movement is a gesture is a wave is a greeting is a disturbance is an effect is a consequence is a result is a finishing is a sanding is a covering is a closing is a point of entry is a door is an opening is a hole is a circle is a shape is a figure is a person is a human is a creature is a monster is a fiction is a story is a tale is a narrative is a sequence is an order is a command is an imperative is an exclamation is a shout is a squeal is a yip is a bark is a skin is an organ is an instrument is a device is a tool is a hammer is a striking device is an alarm is a sound is a noise is a nuisance is a smell is a sensation is a feeling is a reaction is an end is a finish line is a goal is a unit of scoring is a number is a designation is a name is a noun is a word



D e a r M s .  
Rodgers, I have  
been told that it  
may be that in  
the case of that  
it must be that  
there is no that  
when there is  
that you must be  
that when it is  
that I am where  
that I know that I  
should know that  
I must know that  
it appears that in  
some instances  
that on some  
occassions that  
in the event of  
that

Is a word a picture?  
Or is it a portrait? A  
likeness?

An analogy? A  
comparison? A  
choice? A decision?

A verdict? A  
judgment? A  
sentence? A term? A  
semester?

A season? A time of  
year? A period? A  
duration?

A spell? A few days?  
A span of time? A  
series?

A set of actions? A  
doing? A being? A  
person?

A figure?

0100001011 is not 0101100101\*

\*but it could be in some other medium

I will not tell you a story because I do not know any white whales and I have never lived in Nantucket. Seafood is another word for \_\_\_\_\_. It was invented in \_\_\_\_\_. Prior to that date, the specific varieties of \_\_\_\_\_ were referred to and marketed by name only.