

Rhetorics of Attention

Friends of Attention, Jan 5 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/33m9cfme> this doc

Add your attentions below in purple!

Resource: Example Situations from David's Class (the specific = attn easier to specify)

- giving an impromptu **toast** before a drink
- having your **photo** taken
- casting **auditions** for film actors
- how to productively approach **arguing** with someone across the political spectrum
- emulating someone's style of **humor**
- making **small talk** as a grocery store cashier
- talking to a **depressed** friend
- **praying**
- **cooking** with someone in order to fall in love with them
- creating sense of **co-presence** over zoom for a distance romantic relationship
- perceiving and **thematizing your high school life** over 4 years to optimize your college essay
- overcoming **fear** to kill a cockroach
- reading **poetry** to maximize its emotional impact
- interviewer coming up with follow-up **questions** on the spot
- reframing annoying sounds for **misophonia** (chronic annoyance from sound)
- **lifting weights** while at the edge of failure
- **habitualizing** deliberate practice of my values and ideals into my day's events
- Suppressing **laughter** in public

Resource: Possible Phrasings for Attentional Types

- **X attention**
 - BS-meter attn
 - Unquestioning seismograph attn (for drawing)
 - Protagonizing attn (to neutralizing people's gross body sounds)
 - Ringmaster attn (for babysitting?)
 - Seinfeldian attn to surroundings (for making small talk)
 - Cartoonifying attn (for modeling systems)
 - Becoming hulk attn (for a young woman confronting creepos in the bar)
 - Floor piano attn (for walking across noisy old floorboards)
 - Therapist-of-funnypain attn (for finding what's funny)
- **Do X through the lens of Y** Read X through a formalist lens, understand an idea through a historical lens, think about politics through the lens of electoralism, etc. Interpret art through a lens of marxist, feminist, allegorical, biblical, functionalist, or mood.
- **Approach X in terms of Y** Twain's river in terms of "I mastered the language of the river" in terms of beauty vs. navigational symbols vs. ...ddd
- **Perceive X as Y** argument as war vs dance vs. gymnastic resistance training vs. ...
- **Questions: X?** "Are we smelling the same thing?" to create a sense of shared presence with a romantic partner across zoom (a freshman student's topic!)
- **Adverbs: -ly** Contain attns e.g., do X nostalgically, comparatively, free associatively, animalistically...

Anything else that clearly communicates!

[Eve, Justin, Alyssa, Leonard] Attentions

Situation: First Date

Goal: discerning information about a new human in a performative context/ self monitoring to present the self

Type(s) of attention: Tactical Unveiling Attention

Lane, Jingqiu, Joanna, and Claudia's Attentions

Situation: being presented instructions that we are unsure about collectively

Goal: how to understand and follow broad instructions in a shared way; how to deal with uncertainty and potential of failure.

Type(s) of attention: focus & connecting with the world

Larry Berger Attentions

Situation: My dog is trying to tell me something and I have ruled out hunger or need for a potty trip

Goal: Understand an animal

Type(s) of attention: languageless translator, empathic futility

Peter's Attention 1

Situation: Working at the public library

Goal: Trying to focus while ignoring the intrusive / embarrassing sounds of the public

Type(s) of attention: Reclusive attention (trying to hide from a collective situation),

- Retreat from situation

Peter's Attention 2

Situation: Watching someone tell a truth and lie on Zoom

Goal: Trying to discern the two

Type(s) of attention: Audience attention, one-way mirror, forensic attention, mimetic attention (putting myself in her shoes)

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Akua, Abby, Ana Cristina, and Brad's Attentions

Situation: In an old house with creaking boards, with keys in your pocket, you want to go outside to meet someone

Goal: Sneak out of a house without being heard

Type(s) of attention: creaking board attention, key jangling attention, creaking door attention, secret rendezvous attention, escape attention, anticipation,

Situation: Holding a young child that is falling or just fallen asleep

Goal: Don't wake the child

Type(s) of attention: imaginary sandbag attention, cradling-a-baby attention, baby-weight attention

Both of these are kinds of relational attentions – attention to others' sensitivities, others' bodies,

Breath-control attention,....

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Meghan's Attention:

Situation: Learning French as a new language

Goal: To become near fluent & to learn discipline-specific (rhetorical) terms that I use in my research/writing

Type(s) of attention:

Kristin's Attention:

Situation: poker playing

Goal: to win

Type(s) of attention: hustler's attention, kind of predatory, but also attention to the absent object (attending to the face, movements, bets of opponent to know the truth of the cards you can't see

Anya's Attention:

Situation: extending/preparing a musical instrument you know well so that you're learning it anew

Goal: to understand what aspects of musicality I'm not attending to because of habituation

Type(s) of attention: several me's (habituated and novel) attending to one another

Chris's Attention:

Situation: On the city bus

Goal: Trying not to feel nauseated

Type(s) of attention: Bodily, non agentive, alienated. Outward. Anti-social

CAMJ Attentions (Amalia, Crvstal, Jacob, Marwa)

Situation: Being at a bar, seeing a lonely individual who perhaps is longing for connection, and being in an "it depends moment" of should i reach out and connect with them (do the human thing) or go ignore the natural inclination to connect and resort to going on our phone to deal with the situation.

Goal: To decide what sort of connection is appropriate for this situation.

Type(s) of attention: mimetic attention, empathic attention, somatic attention, thermometer attention, visual attention, relational attention, inner-world attention,

Attentions: D. Graham Burnett thinking....

Situation: Something is missing

Goal: attend to the missing thing

Type(s) of attention: substitutionaryattention...

Kyle Winston's Attentions

Situation: Hearing someone make a phone call in a library reading room about therapy, getting a new phone and going to CVS

Goal: Learn "Zoning types" for "Programming and Analysis" Architectural Registration Exam

Type(s) of attention: Socio-spatial sensitive attention: know that this person may only have this space to make the call;

Specific-content attention: the details of the call of (which are difficult to ignore) undermine the sensitivity given their everyday nature.

Alex, Caitlin and Christopher's Attentions

Situation: experiencing ballet, engaging with Erik Satie's music, experience a bus journey in a crowded context

Goal: diversifying qualities of attention, unifying types of attention while engaging with playing music

Type(s) of attention: membranous, chameleonic

Jessica Gallucci's Attentions

Situation: learning dance steps from a teacher

Goal: perception for memorization

Type(s) of attention:

1. personalized the steps in my body
2. My limbs into instructor
3. Mimicry

= co-puppeteering attn

Jac Mullen's Attentions

Situation: Talking to a student you know is lying to you.

Goal: Make the best intervention, for the student, in the moment.

Type(s) of attention: Suspended attention: Consider the student. Call to mind everything you know about the student. Allow this knowledge to flood the periphery of the mind's eye, as you continue to regard the student. Or, maybe: all of this experience and knowledge of the student is like so many gumballs in a gumball machine. In the machine, along with all the gumballs you can see, is a gumball you can't see, which is their intention in lying. Outside of the gumball machine, which you also cannot see, is the shadow of a future gumball machine, cast forward and determined, in part, by which gumball you select from the machine in the present moment. Your attention must be such that, in regarding the student, you select a gumball (intention) which allows you to have a natural response (yes, you can go; no, you can't go, etc.), which in turn results in one of the better possible future gumball machines to be selected for. Sometimes pretending you do not know you've accepted a lie is the best choice, in terms of the future gumball machine. Etc.

Name: Antony Fredriksson

Situation: Attending to a lingering uncanny pain in my stomach, questioning the cause of the affect, was it something I ate or a developing illness...

Goal: trying to figure out what is wrong, interpreting the sensation correctly, letting myself become informed by the quality of the pain,

Type: interoceptive embodied attention, cenesthesia