

# inquiry log

We know that attention acts as a lightning rod. Merely by concentrating on something one causes endless analogies to collect around it, even penetrate the boundaries of the subject itself: an experience that we call coincidence, serendipity – the terminology is extensive. My experience has been that in these circular travels what is really significant surrounds a central absence, an absence that, paradoxically, is the text being written or to be written.  
Julio Cortázar, *Around the Day in Eighty Worlds*

## Assignment Description

You will dedicate a file in your Google folder to this small project (named “your last name\_inquiry log”). Each entry will contain at least 3 inquiries. Your list will be simple, but some questions may require context. Treat these as “notes to self,” so only be as generous with background as is necessary for your own recollection.

Over the next couple of weeks, you will keep a list of personal wonderings. Your **first entry** may be searchable, surface curiosities (When did standardized testing become the norm in the United States? What is the current minimum wage in the U.S.? What is protected by “Freedom of Speech”?).

By the **second entry**, your questions should become a little more substantial, that is they should require some digging but might still be researchable/answerable (How did standardized testing become the norm? Has minimum wage kept up with the inflated cost of living? Under what circumstances are citizens not protected by the Freedom of Speech?)

**The remainder of your entries** should consist of inquiries that require depth and introspection in response (What does a score on a standardized test really prove? Is it ethical to pay an employee minimum wage? Can and should any government assume the power to regulate, or not regulate, spoken and written word?)

You should not feel compelled to answer these questions in this log (though if you wish to briefly respond you are welcome to do so). You should not feel bound to any singular subject, that is although the depth of inquiry will develop throughout this exercise, your curiosities may vary. You should log genuine encounters with wondering, these may arise in a classroom, be inspired by a film, or come up in a conversation. The best questions are the ones that keep you up at night.

The purpose of keeping this log is to keep your finger on your own pulse. You should approach this not only as a guide to your research interest and through your research process in WRTG 121, but also as a practice that will serve you well outside of this class, throughout your lives.