

Example of Choice in Reading Response

Week 3: Nozick's Experience Machine OR film analysis

The readings for Wednesday are

[Nozick The Experience Machine.pdf](#)

[De Brigard If you like it does it matter if its real.pdf](#)

There are two choices for the reading response this week. You only need to do **one** of them.

1. **After** reading Nozick's thought experiment but **before** reading De Brigard's article:
Would you plug in? Try to articulate your reasons.
You might also watch the film "The Matrix" (available by streaming from the library).
2. Watch "Perfect Days" (available for streaming from Duke's library) or "Yes Man" (rent on Youtube or streaming service). Respond by answering some or all of the following questions: **What do you think the movie is trying to say about happiness and the good life?** That is, what is its thesis about the "good life"? Is it telling us to pursue pleasure, and if so, what kinds? Give examples, and consider the **events** of the movie, **changes in the main characters**, what life they are living **compared with other characters**, etc. How do these exemplify or build a case for the movie's thesis? Finally, relate the movie to ideas from Epicurus or Mill.