

John Dewey 1859-1952
American philosopher, educational reformer

Essays in Experimental Logic.

Chicago: University of Chicago (1916)

http://www.brocku.ca/MeadProject/Dewey/Dewey_1916/Dewey_1916_01.html

John Dewey at the typewriter ...

The word which I have just written is momentarily focal; around it there shade off into vagueness my typewriter, the desk, the room, the building, the campus, the town, and so on. *In* my experience, and in such a way as to *qualify* even what is shingly apparent, are ...

John Dewey with PowerPoint ...

- all the physical features of the environment extending out into space no one can say how far
- all the habits and interests extending backward and forward in time, of the organism which
 - uses the typewriter
 - notes the written form of the word only as a temporary focus in a vast and changing scene

About Experience

... when the word "experience" is employed in the text it means just such an immense and operative world of diverse and interacting elements.

About Experience ...

It might seem wiser, [because] the term "experience" is so frequently used ... to denote something very different from such a world, to use an acknowledgedly objective term: to talk about the typewriter, for example. But experience in ordinary usage ... expressly denotes something which a specific term like "typewriter" does *not* designate: namely, the indefinite range of context in which the typewriter is *actually* set, its spatial and temporal environment, including the habitudes, plans, and activities of its operator.

About Experience ...

... [We don't] use a general objective term like "world," or "environment," [because] the word "experience" suggests something indispensable which these terms omit: namely, an actual focusing of the world at one point in a focus of immediate shining apperency ... in its ordinary human usage, the term "experience" was invented ... to refer ... to what is indicated in only a roundabout and divided way by such terms as "organism" and "environment," "subject" and "object," "persons" and "things," "mind" and "nature," and so on.