

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](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 apparency ... 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.