*This is Water* Analysis

Read the speech THIS IS WATER by David Foster Wallace. Answer the following questions making point-form notes. Bring your notes to the next class.

1. **Structure: What observations can you make about the overall structure of the speech? Considering things like a) length b) allegory c) repetition d) metaphor e) anything else you observe**
2. **Language: How would you describe the level of language that Wallace uses throughout the speech. Is it well-chosen considering his audience (recent University grads)?**
3. **Form: Discuss the hypothetical story (the one about driving to the store) at the center of this piece. What choices does he make as a writer in his telling of the story? What is the desired effect?**
4. **Content: Why does Wallace feel spiritual worship will not let you down like all other kinds of worship?**
5. **Content: Do you agree with his assessment that this speech is ‘the truth with a lot of rhetorical bullshit pared away”?**
6. **Content: The title is THIS IS WATER. What is “this”?**