Existentialism Here and Now
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The process of reconstruing our relationship to the world, specifically by distinguishing ourselves from what is outside us. This is not merely an exercise in self-delusion but rather involves a profound shift in how we understand and interact with our surroundings.

The work of existentialists like Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Heidegger challenges us to consider the meaning of our existence and the nature of human freedom. This perspective emphasizes the importance of personal choice and responsibility, arguing that we are fundamentally free agents who must determine our own destiny.

For someone with an active interest in existentialist issues, the silence in contemporary discourse can be deafening. Existentialism, as noted above, is widely perceived as passé, and this is not only true in popular culture: The impact is not that there are therapists who call themselves existential therapists, because that is not why existentialism matters. It's rather a concern with the basic presuppositions of what it means to be a human being, and the role of language in shaping our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world.

Finally, there is the matter of individualism. This view of existentialism is at once the most common and the most plausible. Kierkegaard's denigration of "the crowd," Nietzsche's of "the herd," and Heidegger's of "the technological age" all reflect a critique of massification and the loss of individuality in modern society. Yet, existentialism is not just about the individual; it is about the human condition and the search for meaning in a world that can be both beautiful and tragic.

In conclusion, existentialism remains a vital and relevant perspective in our contemporary world. It continues to challenge us to think critically about our own lives and the larger questions of existence and meaning. Whether you are a student, a teacher, or a philosopher, the ideas of existentialism are worth exploring, for they offer a unique and powerful lens through which to view the human experience.