

This was an exercise to visually map sixty minutes of our life. We were given the freedom to document anything we wanted. I'm not sure whether it was the fact that on this particular day, I was comfortably settled in my chair by the window drenched in sunlight, or if I was just in a desperate need of some sort of break, or if I simply sought pleasure in doing something completely mundane, but I decided to count the number of bricks on the wall in my apartment. I never got around to counting them all; it seems that my mind can never get around to catching a break, even if I'm just sprawled on my chair basking in warmth, taking a rest from school, and counting bricks.

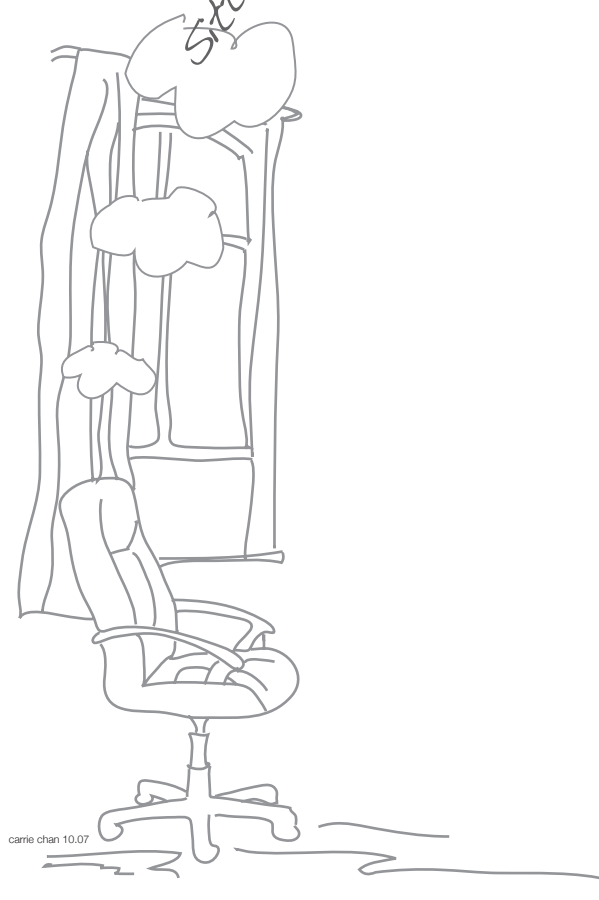
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Sitting on my chair from here, I can see the brick wall opposite me. It's 11:08am.

For no other reason than for a class assignment, I'm counting the number of bricks on my wall. So I guess I'll start. Oh wait. I think I need to take a picture of my apartment. The camera is conveniently located within arm's reach. I take two pictures. Hmm. My apartment is a lot messier than I thought it was... but I just finished cleaning! Hmm... I can't start counting yet, I just got some new emails. Work. More work. The internet goes down. Again. I wish I could cancel Comcast just so I wouldn't have to deal with them. Push the reset button on my modem. Nothing gets fixed. Huh. So maybe it's not Comcast's fault. So then what's wrong? I climb under my desk to mess around with the tangled power cords. I look over to my router. No power. Weird. It's dusty down here. I definitely should clean around down here when I have time. So there's no power going to my router. But my modem is fine. Hmm maybe I should unplug the router. Plug it back in again. Nope. Nothing. This must have something to do with all the noise that I hear outside my apartment. But that's weird, how does the power only get cut off of one electrical outlet? Maybe it's not the outlet. Let me try plugging in my laptop to this 'faulty' outlet. Hmm. Ok it's definitely the outlet's problem. Great. Now I have to figure out how to rewire everything so that I have enough outlets for the number of wires. Ugh there are cork bits from my cork wall that have fallen to the ground. Really should vacuum here soon. Alright wires, how should I arrange you... there! Done. Internet is up and running again! Time to reply to emails. Finally got a reply for my IRB application. Guess I should fix those up while I'm at it. I hate the IRB. Huh. It's 11:46am. That took way too long. Back to counting bricks.

I need to twitter this. I'm already bored. Great. It's only been two rows so far. It's 11:48am. I'm already getting confused at which row I'm on. All the bricks look the same. They're also a lot more orange than I thought they were. I'm transferring these notes to Excel. There. Now I can see how many entries I have so far. This is the 26th entry. Great. This is a lot harder than I thought it would be. I should probably be working on my thesis paper right now. Or maybe even my IRB. The sixth row had a lot of little bricks. I'm beginning to have to use my hands to keep track of which row I'm on. I'm also wondering how useful this data set will be for this assignment. Okay, onto 7th row.

The sun is shining strongly through my window... my back is getting hot. It's now 12:00pm and I'm still in the clothes that I slept in! The wind through my window is so refreshing. Why am I inside my apartment counting bricks? I wonder what I would've done if my apartment didn't have brick walls. Sunshine is great. I think I'm going to stop counting bricks now. It just so happens that the 10th row of bricks lines up with the top of my mirror on my wall. So maybe I'll just rename this data set "Number of bricks on the wall above my mirror". It's 12:05pm. My cup of white tea has now become cold. I can't believe an entire hour has just passed. What have I done in the past hour? Fixed the internet. Or power, rather. Wrote an email. Fixed a problem with my IRB. COUNTED BRICKS. So there you have it. I have something close to 260 bricks on my wall above my mirror in my apartment. Good to know. It's 12:08pm.