

arena vid v2

Draft 2, video essay.



[wide. Taylor stands in shed, or closet, recording a voice memo on his iphone.]

Hi, my name is Taylor. I want to tell you why I am using are.na.

[title. What is Are.na?]

First. What is Are.na?

[cut to screen capture of [are.na](#) video quotes]

[Are.na](#) sums up their platform as "a visual platform for organizing information and building knowledge."

[VO]

They go on to say:

"It's a space where you can save any type of content you find online"

"You can structure your ideas and thoughts in private, or discover new things together."

"Research new interests"

"Find Inspiration"

"and share works in progress"

"Discover new connections over time, so you can make better sense of your world."

"all you have to do is connect."

[white screen with [CONNECT→] on it]

The language they are using here perfectly describes the [Are.na](#) platform.

If you don't mind, I'd like to take a more elementary approach.

Don't worry, we'll be done in 8 [insert shitty overdub with an accurate remaining time] minutes.

FAVORITES FOLDERS

[title]

Most of us have used a similar tool.

[screen cap of favorites folder archival footage]

The favorites folder

I hope you remember at least one folder that you made.

[titles of favorites folders]

streetwear, music blogs, track bikes, trip to... ????

[more archival internet footage]

Remember all that pure internet gold?

[footage of my are.na profile]

Your Are.na is your favorites folders, and the folders are called channels.

[footage of a each type of connection being made] -maybe use footage from aren.a?

The channels can hold anything.

- Text
- Images
- Pdfs
- Links
- Videos
- Connections to other channels
- Or any block you find on arena.

The Arena channel is not just a folder.

It's seeing your interests from a new perspective.

Like a collage of what interests you.

Of course this only works if you use it.

FINDING STUFF

To put this bluntly, [Are.na](#) will probably feel somewhat foreign at first.

Unlike other sites we search, [are.na](#) doesn't use suggestion algorithms, search history or machine learning to help you find something to click on.

Just relax and don't worry about finding what you are looking for.

Take a moment to explore.

If you search, one word is often enough.

Don't get discouraged if you run into a channel with 2 blocks in it.

Spend a few minutes appreciating the interests of others.

Look for connections, and click on them to see where they lead. You'll find something interesting this way.

If you find something you love

Follow the channel

or user.

or add the channel or block to a channel of your own.

Don't worry about what to name it.

DO NOT worry about what you are adding or following.

On [Are.na](#) there is no pressure to impress.

We all know the debate as to whether or not you should post a photo on your instagram.

That doesn't apply here, and using that logic is a sign that you need to get off the gram.

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU USE IT?

Arena lets you organize your thoughts and ideas in a format that helps you gain perspective.

That perspective is built upon the perspectives of others.

As you build a channel, you build community.

the whole is greater than the sum.

So, why do I prefer to spend my time there over any other platform?

Arena teaches me to spend time appreciating the common ground I share with others.

The last platform I loved was designed to do the opposite.

But I don't use it anymore.

Most platforms don't teach you valuable life lessons.

[CONNECT →]

taylor sizemore 2021

(the year that I recognized what I learned the year before)

I'm just a person that loves the site.

<http://are.na/>

Thanks are.na!