Speed Dating Questions following “This is Water” by David Foster Wallace

1. What is metacommentary, and what is the purpose of using it?
2. In “This is Water” Wallace use the term “default setting” several times. What does he mean by this term? Why does he say that we need to “adjust” our default settings?
3. Wallace claims that “There is no such thing as atheism; we all worship.” What does mean, and can you give examples from your life or observations of others?
4. Wallace says that **true freedom**is the ability to care about people and to sacrifice for them, even when it is tedious and "unsexy."  Do you agree that this is true freedom, and why or why not??
5. Foster says:

If you are bored and disgusted by politics and don’t bother to vote, you are in effect voting for the entrenched Establishments of the two major parties…. By all means stay home if you want, but don’t bullshit yourself that you’re not voting. You either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and doubling the value of some Diehard’s vote.”

In your own words, explain what it means and tell whether you agree or disagree.