

“An Aesthetic Experience”

A Visual Representation of Dewey's Theory

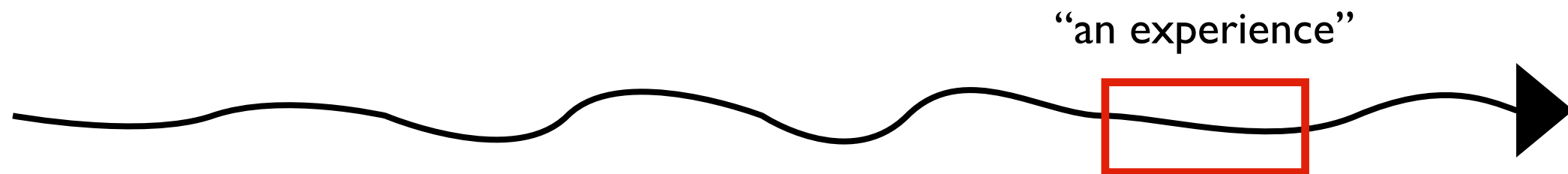
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I.



Throughout our lives, there is a constant flow of “experience,” from our earliest memories through to the present.

2.



But some experiences stand out; they don't feel like "flow" but are instead coherent and complete; Dewey calls these "an experience," kind of in the way we say: "That was an experience!"

Some “An Experiences”



A family vacation



A championship win



A rock concert



Dental surgery

(because “an experiences” can totally suck)

3.

“an experience”



So Dewey then wonders, what happens in
an “an experience”?

4.

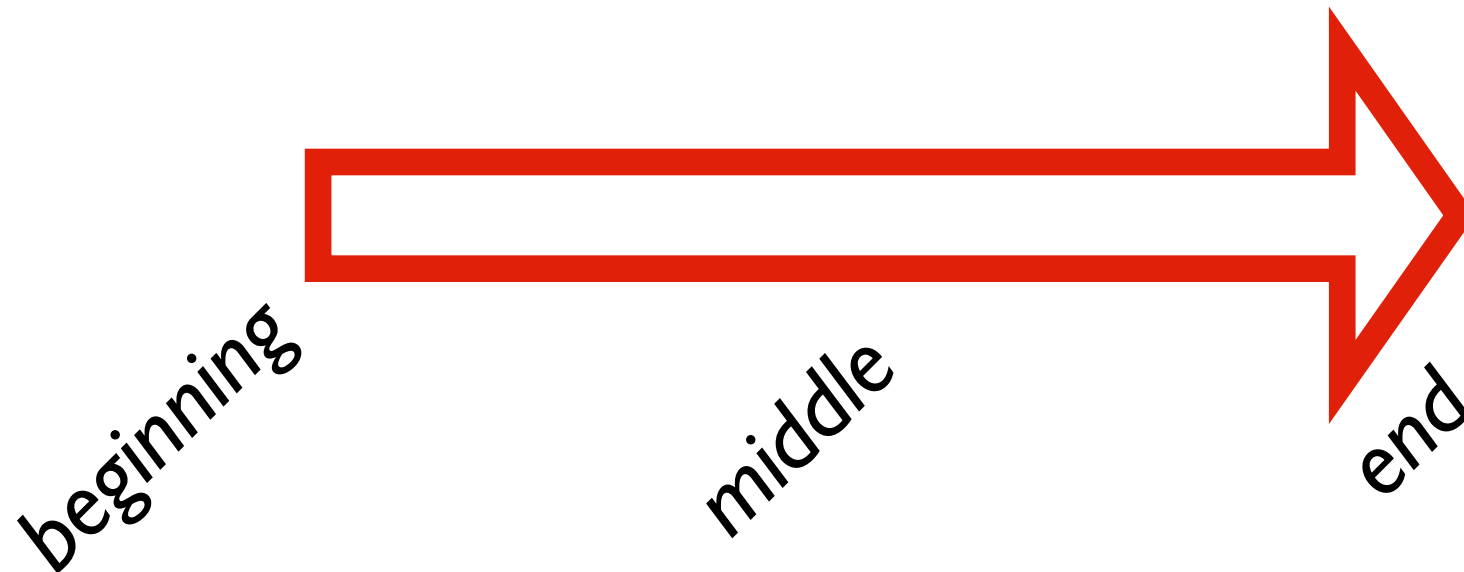
“an experience”



He notes that “an experiences” often feel like they have some *direction*

5.

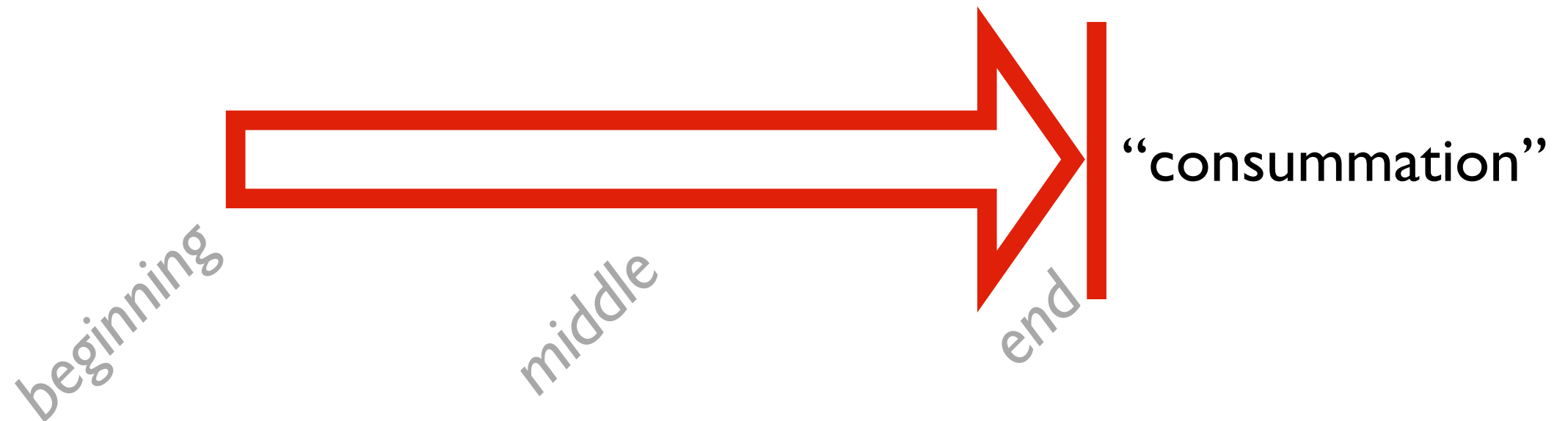
“an experience”



“An experiences” seem to have a
beginning, a middle, and an end

6.

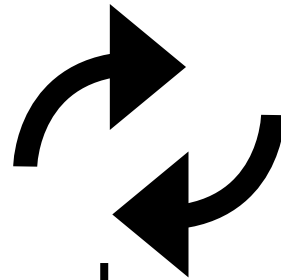
“an experience”



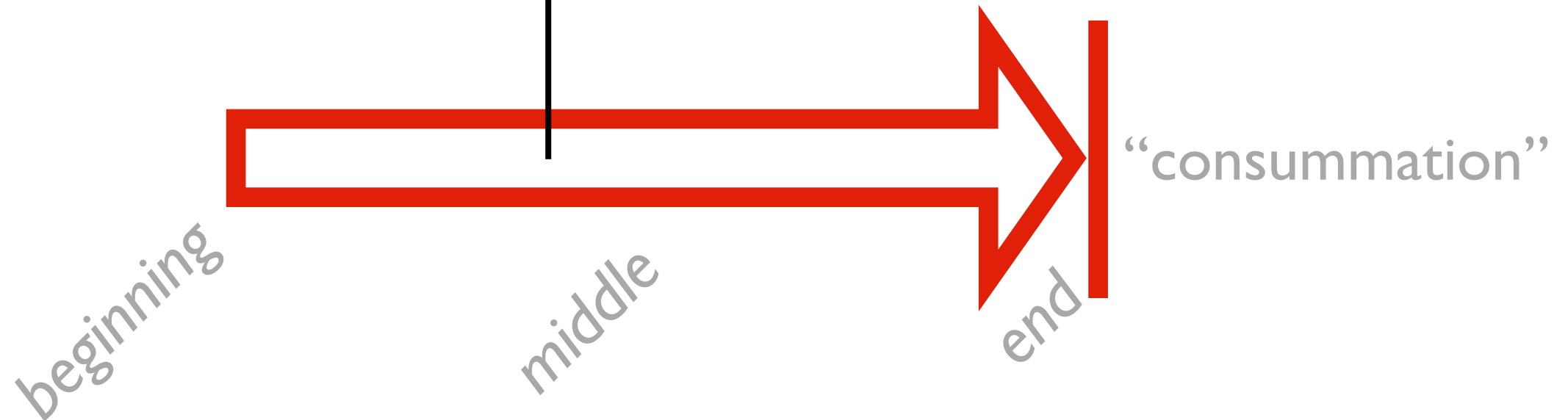
And that the end brings about a sense of conclusion or finality, which is usually satisfying; he calls this the “consummation” of the experience

7.

within the experience,
we do something



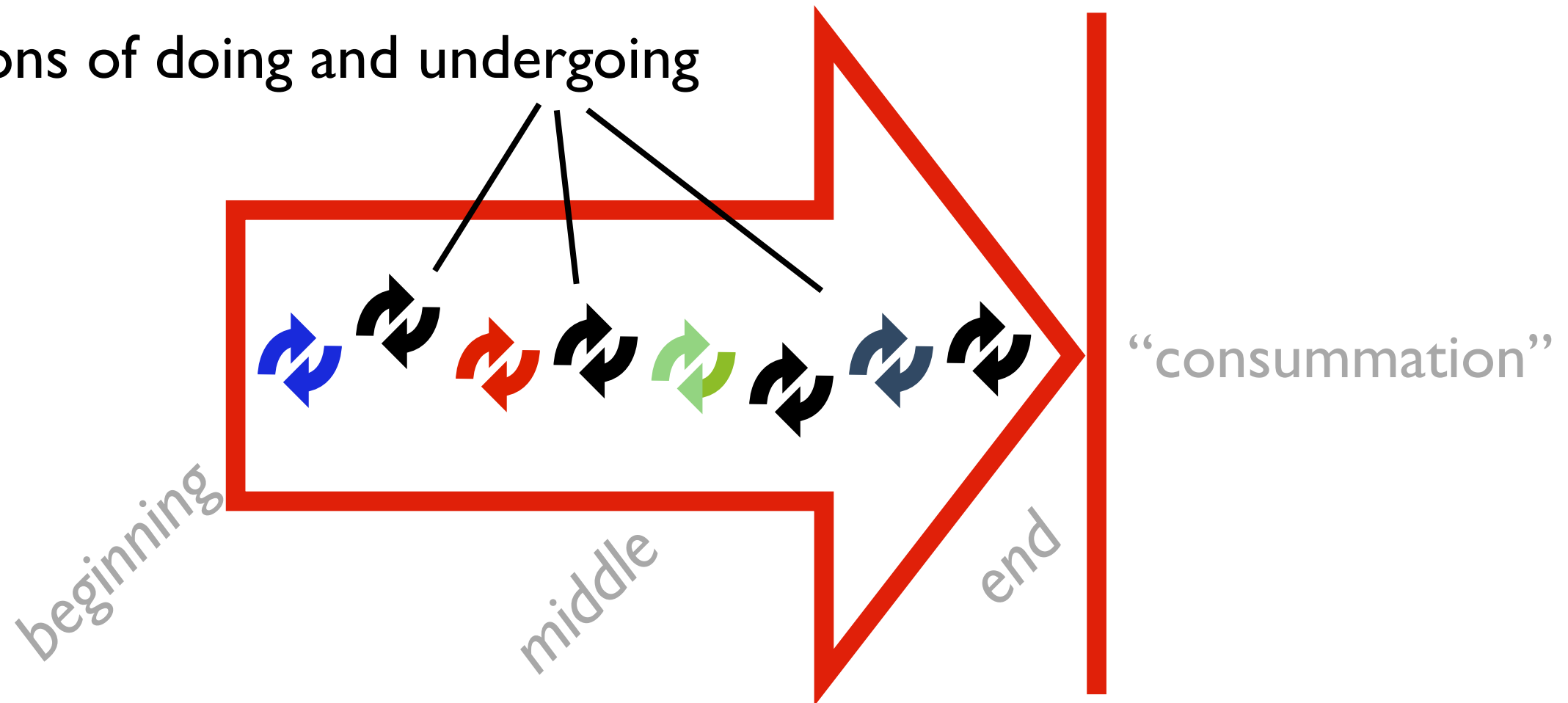
we undergo something



During the “an experience,” we both do things and we undergo things, that is, we act and stuff happens back to us

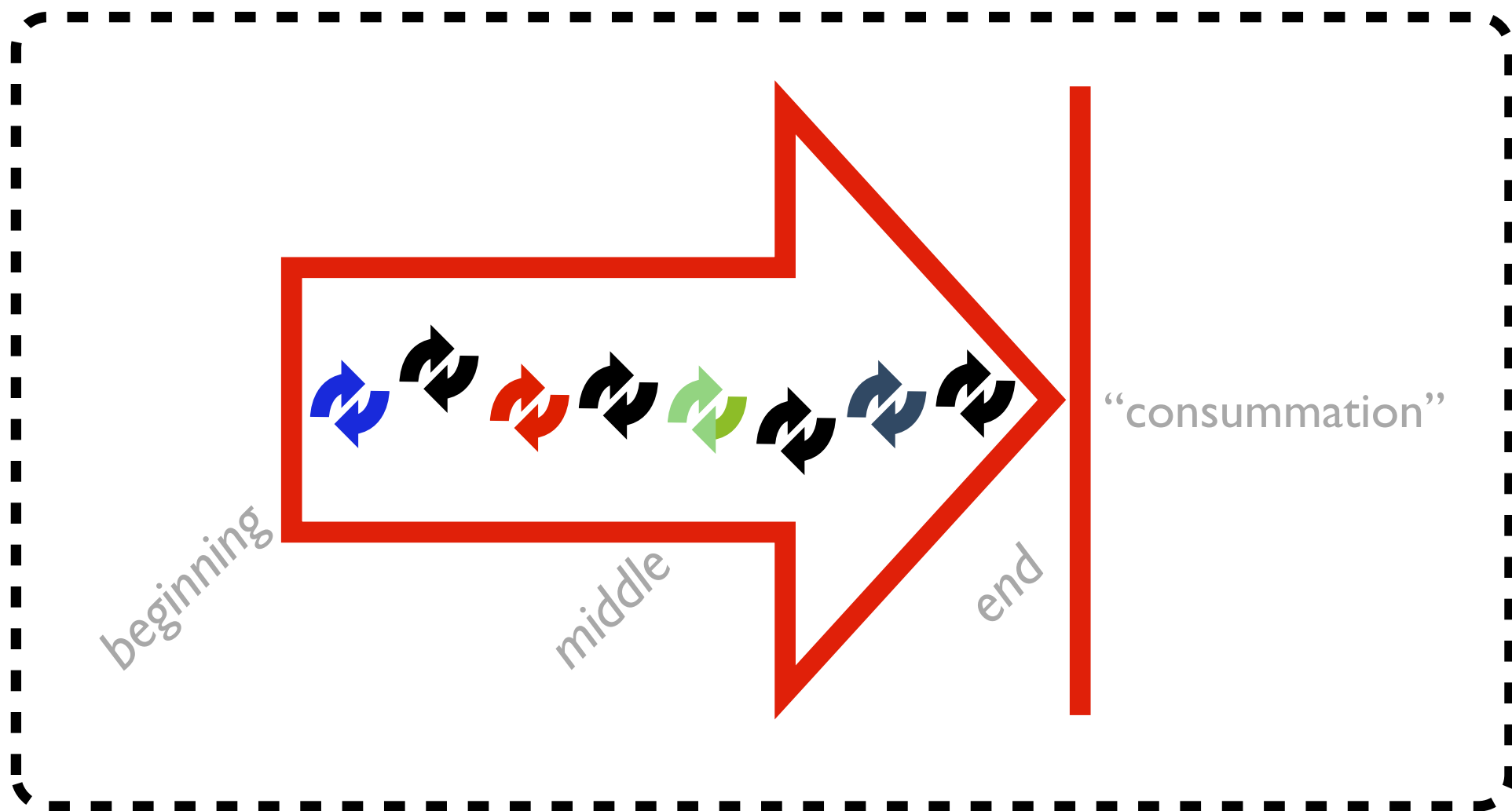
8.

alternations of doing and undergoing



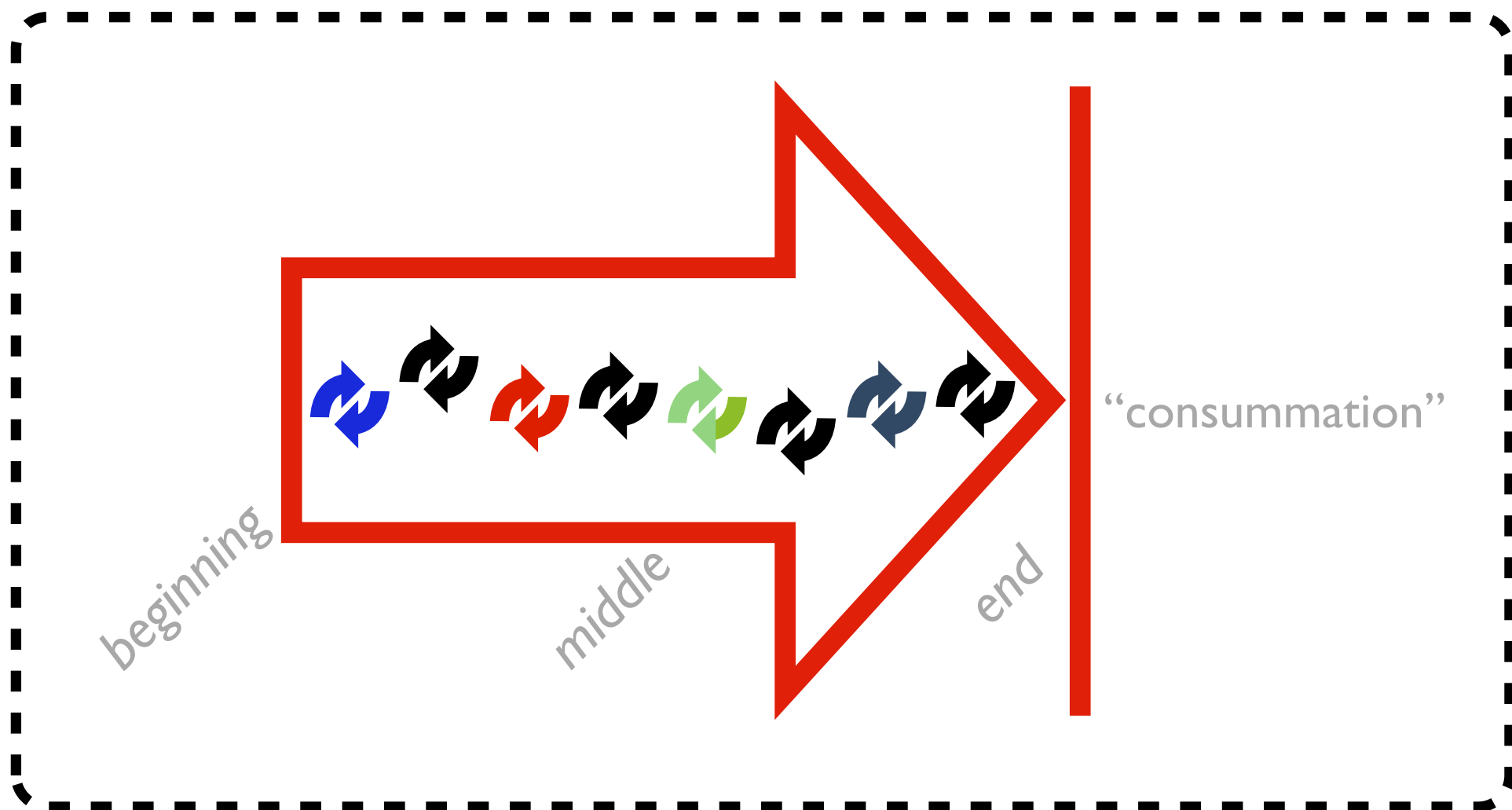
This alternation of doing and undergoing is *varied* (not monotonous) and *directed* (toward the consummation); Nardi describes this as “an internal structure of differentiated phases”

9.



This whole thing is pleasurable and satisfying
The *end* (consum.) and *means* (do/underg.) cohere
We share these socially (via storytelling)

10.



This can characterize
both very special and also
everyday experiences

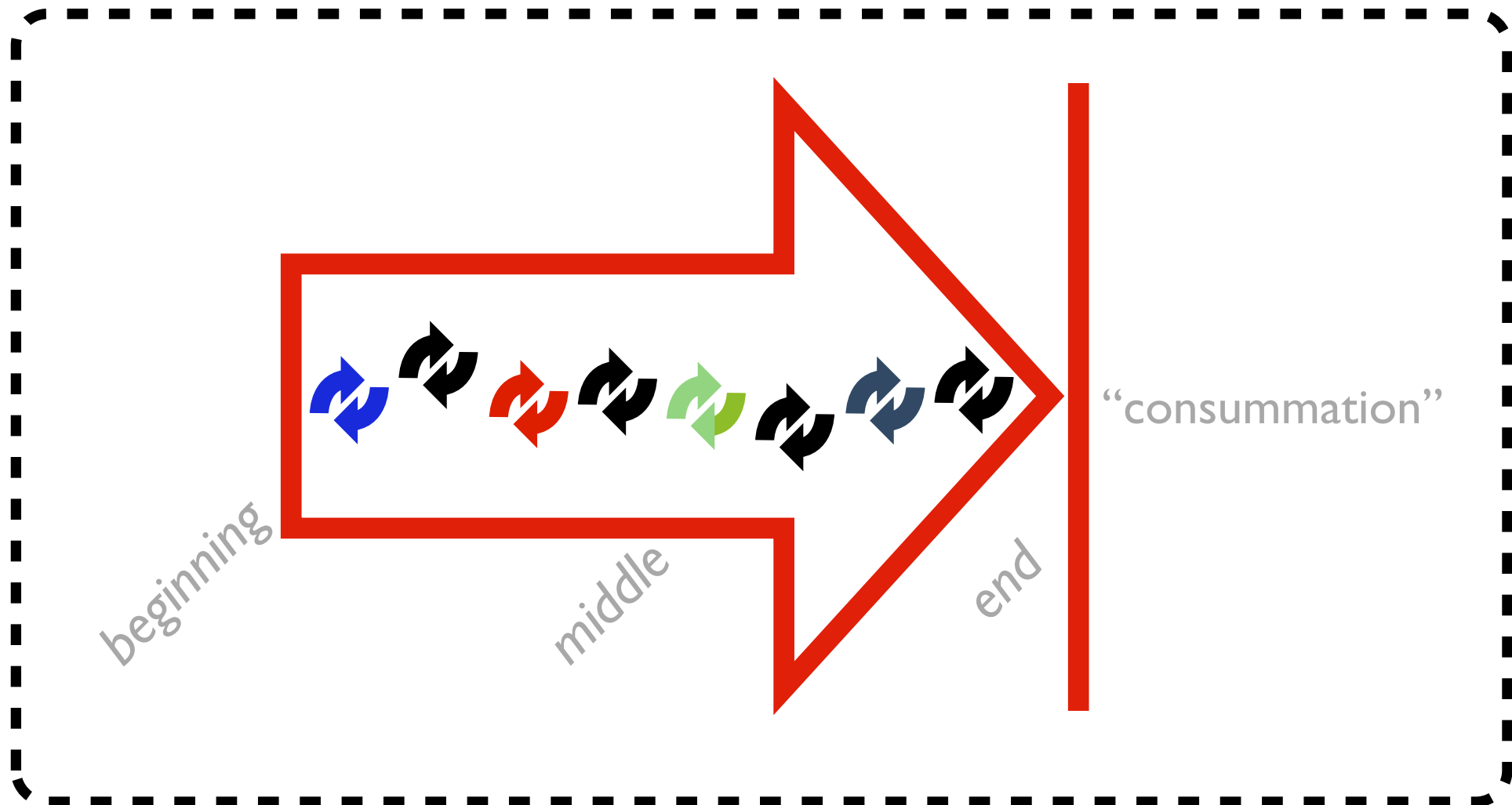
Includes:

Reading literature
Looking at a painting
Going to the opera

But also:

Fixing a motorcycle
Doing homework
Using software

II.



This is “an aesthetic experience”