

### Research Methods SPACE Activity

Wonderful work everyone! You are acquainted with the different research approaches of several Social Science Disciplines. Our attention has favored the eight disciplines here at Dawson:

Anthropology	Economics	Geography	History
Political Science	Psychology	Religion	Sociology

We also discussed:

Gender Studies	African-American Studies	Indigenous Studies
Education	Communication	Social Work

So many different approaches! The common factor: **humans**. Please, do not lose sight of the fact that what drives Social Scientists is a passion for understanding humans and human behavior. They are constantly asking questions. This is what we will do now: ask questions.

**Our inspiration? Arts and Culture.** In part one, I will model the structure and ask you to engage with a poem by a modern U.S. Poet Laureate, Robert Hass. In part two, you will provide the cultural content: lyrics, poem, work of art, graffiti, or movie. You choose!

For both parts, you must select **four** social science disciplines and generate **two** questions each related to that discipline's perspective (Part 1. 8 questions total. Part 2 and 8 questions total.) The questions will thus reflect a discipline's perspective and a specific link to the poem (part 1) or to your choice of cultural artefact (part 2).

**Part 1. *Dancing*, by Robert Hass.**

1. We will get started with this together in class. Follow the poem below as Robert Hass reads it in this video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swvEYSouH4w> . (*Does the oral version match perfectly? Where does it differ?*)

<b>Dancing</b> by Robert Hass
The radio clicks on—it's poor swollen America, Up already and busy selling the exhausting obligation Of happiness while intermittently debating whether or not A man who kills fifty people in five minutes With an automatic weapon he has bought for the purpose Is mentally ill. Or a terrorist. Or if terrorists Are mentally ill. Because if killing large numbers of people With sophisticated weapons is a sign of sickness— You might want to begin with fire, our early ancestors Drawn to the warmth of it—from lightning, Must have been, the great booming flashes of it From the sky, the tree shriveled and sizzling, Must have been, an awful power, the odor Of ozone a god's breath; or grass fires,

The wind whipping them, the animals stampeding,  
Furious, driving hard on their haunches from the terror  
Of it, so that to fashion some campfire of burning wood,  
Old logs, must have felt like feeding on the crumbs  
Of the god's power and they would tell the story  
Of Prometheus the thief, and the eagle that feasted  
On his liver, told it around a campfire, must have been,  
And then—centuries, millennia—some tribe  
Of meticulous gatherers, some medicine woman,  
Or craftsman of metal discovered some sands that,  
Tossed into the fire, burned blue or flared green,  
So simple the children could do it, must have been,  
Or some soft stone rubbed to a powder that tossed  
Into the fire gave off a white phosphorescent glow.

The word for *chemistry* from a Greek—some say Arabic—  
Stem associated with metal work. But it was in China  
Two thousand years ago that fireworks were invented—  
Fire and mineral in a confined space to produce power—  
They knew already about the power of fire and water  
And the power of steam: 100 BC, Julius Caesar's day.  
In Alexandria, a Greek mathematician produced  
A steam-powered turbine engine. Contain, explode.  
"The earliest depiction of a gunpowder weapon  
Is the illustration of a fire-lance on a mid-12th-century  
Silk banner from Dunhuang." Silk and the silk road.  
First Arab guns in the early fourteenth century. The English  
Used cannons and a siege gun at Calais in 1346.  
Cerigna, 1503: the first battle won by the power of rifles  
When Spanish "arquebusiers" cut down Swiss pikemen  
And French cavalry in a battle in southern Italy.  
(Explosions of blood and smoke, lead balls tearing open  
The flesh of horses and young men, peasants mostly,  
Farm boys recruited to the armies of their feudal overlords.)  
How did guns come to North America? 2014,  
A headline: DIVERS DISCOVER THE SANTA MARIA  
One of the ship's Lombard cannons may have been stolen  
By salvage pirates off the Haitian reef where it had sunk.  
And Cortes took Mexico with 600 men, 17 horses, 12 cannons.  
And LaSalle, 1679, constructed a seven-cannon barque,  
Le Griffon, and fired his cannons upon first entering the  
continent's  
Interior. The sky darkened by the terror of the birds.  
In the dream time, they are still rising, swarming,  
Darkening the sky, the chorus of their cries sharpening  
As the echo of that first astounding explosion shimmers  
On the waters, the crew blinking at the wind of their wings.  
Springfield Arsenal, 1777. Rock Island Arsenal, 1862.  
The original Henry rifle: a sixteen shot .44 caliber rimfire

Lever-action, breech-loading rifle patented—it was an age  
Of tinkers—by one Benjamin Tyler Henry in 1860,  
Just in time for the Civil War. Confederate casualties  
In battle: about 95,000. Union casualties in battle:  
About 110,000. Contain, explode. They were throwing  
Sand into the fire, a blue flare, an incandescent green.  
The Maxim machine gun, 1914, 400-600 small caliber rounds  
Per minute. The deaths in combat, all sides, 1914-1918  
Was 8,042,189. Someone was counting. Must have been.  
They could send things whistling into the air by boiling water.  
The children around the fire must have shrieked with delight  
1920: Iraq, the peoples of that place were “restive,”  
Under British rule and the young Winston Churchill  
Invented the new policy of “aerial policing,” which amounted,  
Sources say, to bombing civilians and then pacifying them  
With ground troops. Which led to the tactic of terrorizing  
civilian  
Populations in World War II. Total casualties in that war,  
Worldwide: soldiers, 21 million; civilians, 27 million.  
They were throwing sand into the fire. The ancestor who stole  
Lightning from the sky had his guts eaten by an eagle.  
Spread-eagled on a rock, the great bird feasting.  
They are wondering if he is a terrorist or mentally ill.  
London, Dresden. Berlin. Hiroshima, Nagasaki.  
The casualties difficult to estimate. Hiroshima:  
66,000 dead, 70,000 injured. In a minute. Nagasaki:  
39,000 dead, 25,000 injured. There were more people killed,  
100,000, in more terrifying fashion in the firebombing  
Of Tokyo. Two arms races after the ashes settled.  
The other industrial countries couldn’t get there  
Fast enough. Contain, burn. One scramble was  
For the rocket that delivers the explosion that burns humans  
By the tens of thousands and poisons the earth in the process.  
They were wondering if the terrorist was crazy. If he was  
A terrorist, maybe he was just unhappy. The other  
Challenge afterwards was how to construct machine guns  
A man or a boy could carry: lightweight, compact, easy to  
assemble.  
First a Russian sergeant, a Kalashnikov, clever with guns  
Built one on a German model. Now the heavy machine gun.  
The weapon of European imperialism through which  
A few men trained in gunnery could slaughter native armies  
In Africa and India and the mountains of Afghanistan,  
Became “a portable weapon a child can operate.”  
The equalizer. So the undergunned Vietnamese insurgents  
Fought off the greatest army in the world. So the Afghans  
Fought off the Soviet army using Kalashnikovs the CIA  
Provided to them. They were throwing powders in the fire

And dancing. Children's armies in Africa toting AK-47s  
That fire thirty rounds a minute. A round is a bullet.  
An estimated 500 million firearms on the earth.  
100 million of them are Kalashnikov-style semi-automatics.  
They were dancing in Orlando, in a club. Spring night.  
Gay Pride. The relation of the total casualties to the history  
Of the weapon that sent exploded metal into their bodies—  
30 rounds a minute, or 40, is a beautifully made instrument,  
And in America you can buy it anywhere—and into the history  
Of the shaming culture that produced the idea of Gay Pride—  
They were mostly young men, they were dancing in a club,  
A spring night. The radio clicks on. Green fire. Blue fire.  
The immense flocks of terrified birds still rising  
In wave after wave above the waters in the dream time.  
Crying out sharply. As the French ship breasted the vast  
interior  
Of the new land. America. A radio clicks on. The Arabs,  
A commentator is saying, require a heavy hand. Dancing.

Robert Hass, "Dancing" from *Bullets into Bells: Poets and Citizens Respond to Gun Violence*. Copyright © 2017 by Robert Hass. Reprinted by permission of Robert Hass

2. **Reflections on the poem itself.** What jumps out at you? Were you expecting something different due to its title? What were some of the references in the poem that mean absolutely nothing to you? What do you know about gun violence in the US? *Write your initial comments in the box*

3. The Pulse Night Club, June 2016, Orlando, Florida. Take some notes on what we discussed in class about this as well as US gun violence in the box below.

4. This poem carries an anti-gun violence theme, but there are loads more questions that it raises as well. Are you ready? It is over to you now.
  - a. Return to the poem. As you re-read it pause and think about what questions you could raise. Perhaps you'll want to choose your four disciplines, or maybe the choice of disciplines will be determined by your questions.
  - b. Mark each place that inspired a question by clicking on a **Review** "New Comment" box. Indicate in that box which discipline and question number it matches. Example: History. Question 2. You should have 8 comment boxes. Write your **two** questions per discipline in the box here:

Specific Discipline	Questions related to this discipline generated from the Poem
	Question 1:
	Question 2:
	Question 1:
	Question 2:
	Question 1:
	Question 2:
	Question 1:
	Question 2:

**If you are visual learner, here is an example of what I want:**

The radio clicks on—it's poor swollen America,  
 Up already and busy selling the exhausting obligation  
 Of happiness while intermittently debating whether or not  
 A man who kills fifty people in five minutes  
 With an automatic weapon he has bought for the purpose  
 Is mentally ill. Or a terrorist. Or if terrorists  
 Are mentally ill. Because if killing large numbers of people  
 With sophisticated weapons is a sign of sickness—  
 You might want to begin with fire, our early ancestors  
 Drawn to the warmth of it—from lightning,  
 Must have been, the great booming flashes of it  
 From the sky, the tree shriveled and sizzling,  
 .....

Of it, so that to fashion some campfire of burning wood,  
 Old logs, must have felt like feeding on the crumbs  
 Of the god's power and they would tell the story  
 Of Prometheus the thief, and the eagle that feasted  
 On his liver, told it around a campfire, must have been,

Specific Discipline	Questions related to this discipline generated from the Poem
Psychology	Question 1: What affect would thinking that being happy is an "exhausting obligation" have on the mental health of CEGEP students?
	Question 2:

Anthropology	Question 1: In what ways did the use of fire shape early cultural communities?
	Question 2:
Geography	Question 1: How did/does human use of fire reshape the landscape?
	Question 2:

**Part 2.** Your choice! Search for a work of art, lyrics, poem, movie. Select one that really speaks to you—but also be practical—you have to do the same as above: 4 disciplines. 2 questions each.

- a. Copy and Paste your selection, or a link to it, in this box.

- b. Complete the table as it relates to your selection. Instead of provided “Review Comment” boxes, you might just want to write a brief explanation of your specific questions after you write them.

Specific Discipline	Questions related to this discipline generated from the Poem
	Question 1:
	Question 2:
	Question 1:
	Question 2:
	Question 1:
	Question 2:
	Question 1:
	Question 2:

- c. Save and submit this assignment on Lea.

*Thanks ever so much for your amazing and positive effort.*

*Can't wait to see what you found!*