

*To teachers: this assignment can be used as a means of collecting a writing sample from students at the beginning of the semester. It also encourages students to begin considering intersections between the SPACE theme and their own studies and interests, which may motivate them later in the semester to submit one of their own projects to SPACE for possible publication.*

### **Theme reflection assignment**

SPACE—or Sciences Participating with Arts and Culture in Education—is a student enrichment initiative that fosters exploration, discussion, and collaboration beyond the classroom and across the disciplines. Every year SPACE proposes a broad theme and invites students from both the arts and the sciences to learn from each other and even work together through their participation in SPACE activities.

To spark your interest in this year’s SPACE theme—*space s*—you are asked to write a short reflection on the intersections between the theme and your own studies and interests.

Here are the steps for the assignment:

- Read the *space s* theme description on the SPACE website:

<http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/theme/current>

- As you’re reading, jot down any connections from your own studies or interests that are sparked by the theme description.
- From your notes, write a 500 word reflection that connects some aspect of *space s* to your own life, education and / or to society in general. As you’re writing, imagine an audience of your peers. Aim to be accessible and engaging and to offer something original, memorable and useful to your fellow students.
- You can structure your response in any way you like, but here is one possibility:
  - Open with a hook (catchy quote, anecdote, statistic, fact, etc.) that relates to the connection between you / the world around you and the theme.
  - Explain that connection in a few sentences, being as clear and specific as possible.
  - Illustrate your explanation through a brief but vivid story or some other concrete example
  - End with the big picture: what is the significance of this connection? Why does it matter?
- Hand in your reflection, double-spaced, in a Word document.

- That's it for the assignment! But if you would like to submit your reflection to SPACE, either to publish as is or to develop it into a longer piece, you can do so through their submissions portal on their website. FYI most SPACE articles also get an original illustration, created by a Dawson Illustration student, as you can see in the examples below.

For reference, here are a few examples of other student reflections as well as of longer pieces published in the SPACE magazine on various themes over the years:

- [http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/whats\\_the\\_use](http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/whats_the_use) (TECHNIQUE theme)
- <http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/fried> (TECHNIQUE theme)
- [http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/does\\_it\\_scare\\_you\\_to\\_jaywalk](http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/does_it_scare_you_to_jaywalk) (PERSPECTIVES theme)
- [http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/freed\\_from\\_ed](http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/freed_from_ed) (ENTROPY theme)
- [http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/reforming\\_the\\_r\\_score](http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/reforming_the_r_score) (GL.TCH theme)
- [http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/fertilization\\_miss\\_understood](http://space.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/explorations/article/fertilization_miss_understood) (HUMAN BODY theme)