Chapter 11

Education and Religion
Section 1

The Functions of Education

Although family and peers are critical in the socialization process, children will spend more time at school interacting with people when they reach age 5. The educational system is a place where people consciously take the role of active learner or as teacher, and is of central importance in modern society and has all of the elements of a social institution: (View Movie 1.1)

1) Division of Labor allows teachers to teach, but just as important is the staff that makes sure that students enroll in class and have their books; the custodians that have everything in working order; and the administrators that ensure that educators are following all the necessary state and federal laws.

2) Hierarchy of Authority manifests itself in the teacher/student bond, but also within the faculty/administrator and administrator/school board relationship.

3) Written Rules and Regulations are created at the local, state and federal level to educate our youth.

4) Impersonality is incorporated into the classroom with grades. If students do not perform, then they fail, and it is not supposed to matter how much you like them or what social circumstances they face on a day-to-day basis.

5) Technical Qualifications are necessary to ensure some degree of

Movie 1.1 Poetry in Praxis
I Hate School But Love Education by Suli Speaks

1) https://youtu.be/y_ZmM7zPLyI - Video
2) What is the poem about?
3) What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?
4) What do you think the poet believes is the problem?
5) Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
Teachers must have the appropriate credentials to teach so that they are experienced and knowledgeable of varying teaching practices to increase effectiveness.

**The Meaning of a College Degree**

Although there is great significance in just earning your college degree, symbolic interactionists are also interested in finding out the importance of where you receive your degree. Although it seems to be common knowledge that more prestigious schools will increase your life chances, research has uncovered contradictory findings. Sociologist S. Michael Gaddis in his study, *Discrimination in the Labor Market* found that the life chances of white people are not affected by where they receive their degree, while for people of color it is a different story. What is found is that the prestige of the college for people of color increases their job placement and promotion opportunities to EQUAL that of whites that graduate from less prestigious institutions. It is believed that since structural racism promotes negative images of people of color that this group has a higher burden of proof to demonstrate their minimum qualifications.

As with any other social institution, functionalist focus on the education system’s major roles that it performs for society to maintain stability and control:

1) **Socialization** is education’s primary responsibility as it transmits necessary cultural elements to our children. We learn the alphabet along with all the sounds that the letters make and then eventually learn how to read and write so that in high school we will learn to do book reports on famous literary works such as *The Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald or *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. How to do math is focused on examples using money, because even if a person does not understand algebra, they will have to interact with money at one time or another. We learn about key historical people such as Harriet Tubman, a conductor of the Underground Railroad.

**Movie 1.2 Poetry in Praxis**

*Education for Profit* by Joe Limer

1) [https://youtu.be/H4zf2z4W63M](https://youtu.be/H4zf2z4W63M) - Video
2) What is the poem about?
3) What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?
4) What do you think the poet believes is the problem?
5) Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
We learn that George Washington was a Revolutionary War general and became the first president of the United States and that Abraham Lincoln released African captives from slavery. We learn of feminist advocates Virginia Wolfe and Sojourner Truth, labor organizer Cesar Chavez and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We learn about these people in US history because it helps us remember where we came from; informs us about who we are and how we arrived at this historical moment; and remind us how far we have yet to go.

Schools not only teach cultural knowledge but more importantly cultural values. We learn individualism by being seated at single desks rather than group tables. We learn democracy and the importance of voting in school elections. And we learn that life is supposed to be based on meritocracy, where society rewards people on the basis of ability and achievement. These awards are given through the structure of grading and that if you do the work, you will do well in school and in life.

**Movie 1.3 Equality versus Equity**

1) [https://youtu.be/iATDzOez7iU](https://youtu.be/iATDzOez7iU) - Video

2) What is the main point of this video?

3) What example(s) do the authors use to illustrate their point(s)? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

4) Can you think of any other examples of how our society could practice equity rather than equality? Explain.

2) Promoting social integration is one of the first things that school teaches us by encouraging sharing and playing well with others. Social integration is so important that not being able to do this will usually result in being held back in kindergarten. Students then begin to associate themselves with a particular class and find a sense of belonging when they are called Ms. Nakamura’s Knock Outs, Mr. Jenkins Jammers or Mrs. Gerholt’s Greats.

However, the most prominent manner to socially integrate students is by promoting a collective identity, namely the mascot. Schools have Spirit Week were they have multiple pep rallies and sing their alma mater. During sporting events, the band will play their fight song, and people will come from miles...
around to watch the homecoming football game against their crosstown rivals.

3) **Training and social control** are necessary for schools to provide a sense of order and stability in the classroom and the campus. We train students to write their names in the upper right-hand corner and to staple it on the left, or the teacher will not take your paper. We train students to do their homework and study for exams, or they will fail the class. We teach students to raise their hand before speaking, to sit correctly in their chairs and to wait in line or they will not receive a star for the day. We train students to arrive at school and to class on time, or they will be given detention. All of these rules prepare them for the workforce later in life.

4) **Stimulating cultural innovation** allows schools to be a channel for social change. Sex education is a prime example of how the educational system can create social change. Sex used to be one of the greatest mysteries of our society even though almost every adult had done it. Given our Puritan history, talking about sex was one of our most taboo subjects. It was so restricted that in popular shows in the 50's such as *I Love Lucy*, they would show two twin beds in the bedroom of Lucy and Ricky as if to suggest that this married couple was not having sex.

Another innovation that many schools institute is that of **egalitarianism** the belief in the equality of all people, especially in political, economic, or social life. It can be argued that the very idea of public education was born out of the idea that people, regardless of class status, should receive a proper education. This goal is accomplished through a multicultural assortment of reading material, having students learn about various cultures from a
cultural relativism perspective, creating opportunities for women to play sports and allowing people of lower socioeconomic status to eat lunch for free.

5) **Social placement** is a necessary evil of the education system. High achieving students are rewarded by being put on the Honor Roll and placed into Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes separated from the rest of the students who have been designated as not bound for college. Later, these students will be encouraged to apply to universities, and the high school receives more state funding when a large percentage of its senior class goes straight to a four-year college. Having a baccalaureate degree dramatically increases the likelihood that students will be placed in career-oriented jobs that earn livable wages.

An increased focus on obtaining certificates and college degrees has led to over 85% of people receiving a high school diploma or GED (general education development) compared to about 55% back in 1970, while the number of individuals with baccalaureate degrees used to be 11% and is now at almost 30%. Therefore, to stay competitive people are finding out that they must have at least some college education. In other words, having a high school degree does not confer any advantage to someone in the workforce because almost everyone has graduated high school or earned their GED (general education degree).

These increases have affected many people who do not hold such degrees through **credentialism**, which is a term used to describe an increase in the lowest level of education needed to enter a field when the overall job duties have not changed enough to justify the raise. As a result of this explosion of college degrees, employers have increased degree requirements for jobs that historically did not need a degree, which reduces the amount of social status usually associated with a four-year degree. Although giving preference to people with higher education motivates people to obtain these degrees, falsely raising education minimums for jobs directly affects the life chances of poor people who often find that they cannot pay for the escalating price of college.

**Movie 1.5 Credentialism is really an “ism”**

1) [https://youtu.be/HyoD9SryzX8](https://youtu.be/HyoD9SryzX8) - Video

2) What is the main point of this video?

3) What example(s) do the authors use to illustrate their point(s)? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

4) Go to a job search website and explore the type of jobs that say BA/BS required? Do you think they need that level of degree? Explain.
When social structures are introduced into society, conflict theorists always analyze how imbalances in power make their way into these arrangements. These scholars would argue that the interests of the most powerful groups in society are directly reflected in the choices made in the curriculum, the textbooks and even the teachers that are selected and ignore the interests of minority groups, namely poor people, women and people of color.

One way that power manifests itself within the educational system is through the teacher expectancy effect, which describes the impact of what a teacher believes about a student’s academic potential and how that may directly and/or indirectly affect the student’s actual achievements. Research by Robert Rosenthal and Lenore Jacobson back in 1968 and numerous studies since then consistently find that what teachers believe their students can achieve will affect the student’s academic success. Their research revealed that randomly selected students that were identified as having academic potential, not only improved but did significantly better than their peers. Other research shows that if teachers were told that a group of randomly selected students were “ready to bloom” or were “late bloomers,” they would adjust the climate where students learned, interacted with students for longer periods of time and gave more feedback on assignments. Social hierarchy comes into play when teachers make assessments of students based on factors

Section 2

Inequalities in the Education System

Movie 1.6 Poetry in Praxis
What You Said? by Blanca Castro

1) https://youtu.be/PBczseEl7TY - Video
2) What is the poem about?
3) What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?
4) What do you think the poet believes is the problem?
5) Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
that they cannot personally control, such as a school's API (Academic Performance Index) score, the number of children that are learning English as a second language, the percent of students that receive free lunches and the number of white students at a school, can dramatically affect the perception of the students at that school. Therefore, conflict theorist would argue that students that have parents of low socioeconomic status are not stupid, but that society in general, but teachers specifically have low expectations of this group and therefore do not maximize their potential.

Another way that social hierarchy is seen in the education system is through tracking, which is the practice of placing students in specific curriculum groups based primarily on their test scores and are designed to affect the college that students choose to apply. Advance Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes are based on a 5.00 point scale, while the remaining classes are on a 4.00 scale. If you take into consideration that the average grade point average (GPA) of entering first-year students at many universities is above a 4.00, it is easy to see the advantage that a student in AP/IB classes has in getting into a 4-year college immediately after high school. However, the actual social benefit is not seen unless you know that AP/IB classes are more likely to be offered at schools with large numbers of people who are white and middle-class, therefore helping to maintain the status quo.

By not giving poor people and schools with high concentrations of students of color the necessary classes to succeed reveals what conflict theorist refer to as hidden curriculum, where certain standards of behavior that are deemed proper by society and are taught subtly in schools, persuades poor, working class and children of Black and Chicano/Latino heritage to believe that they can only be the workers of society rather than its managers and owners.

Schools that serve neighborhoods with large working-class populations and where the majority of students are Black and/or Chicano/Latino mainly stress rote learning. Movie 1.7 Poetry in Praxis

Mediocre by the Professor

1) [https://youtu.be/Uk0yTqskJe8](https://youtu.be/Uk0yTqskJe8) - Video
2) What is the poem about?
3) What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?
4) What do you think the poet believes is the problem?
5) Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
learning and obedience by giving multiple choice-based exams and focus on behavioral issues. However, schools that serve large middle-class white populations tend to encourage creativity and independent thinking by giving essay-based exams, reading lists and gives volunteer opportunities to help develop leadership skills.

Another way that hidden curriculum affects the lives of students is how sex education is heteronormative, which is the worldview that heterosexuality is normal and that any other sexual orientation is deviant by comparison. Although sex education was considered progressive when first instituted, it has yet to include curriculum that addresses other sexualities that have been researched and documented to exist and are “normal” in many cultures. The exclusion of such curriculum continues to alienate the LGBTQIA (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered/Queer/Intersex/Asexual) community, but more importantly fuels negative feelings towards this group or even people that are just questioning their place on the sexuality continuum that often results in violence against these groups.
In sociology, we study religion because of how it affects a particular society, especially as it pertains to cultural practices and beliefs, not because we are necessarily looking for the Truth. Therefore sociologists define religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices that deals with the content of what is considered sacred (holy) and profane (worldly) in a particular society, usually through the enforcement of specific rules and/or practices. If you lived in an area where the main religion was Islam then you would not have access to certain foods because they are considered unclean. If you were a teacher in a place like this, you would know when Ramadan (a month of praying, reading scripture and fasting) was coming and how that may affect your students’ performance on important exams. If you are in a nation that practiced Judaism, then you would celebrate a whole different set of holidays than people of the Catholic religion. If you lived in a country where Buddhism or Hinduism is the dominant practice, then your historical timeline would not be split into BC (before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini=The Year of our Lord) like that of nations that practice Christianity.

In other words, people do religion in the same manner that one does their gender. If you practice Buddhism or Hinduism, then you know how to chant in the most effective manner.
determined by your religious dogmas. If you are Muslim, then you obey the five pillars of Islam to the best of your ability. If you practice Catholicism then on Lent you show honor to your God by fasting or giving up a particular luxury item for a designated period (usually from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve). While if you are Jewish, then you will confirm your commitment to your religion at your Bar Mitzvah (for males) or Bat Mitzvah (for females).

Religion is practiced and adhered to because of the complex and troubling questions that it is designed to answer:

1) Why do we exist?
2) Who or what created the universe?
3) Why do bad things happen to good people?
4) What happens when we die?
5) What is the right thing to do?

If you understand the purpose of religion in this manner, then cultural relativism would suggest that one religion’s answers are not be better than other faiths. In other words, sociologists would argue that your religious beliefs have more to do with the culture that you were raised in rather than your actual faith in those practices. Do people go to church on Easter and Christmas because they believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior or because that is what they were taught to do?

However, this perspective comes into serious contention when you contrast it to a person’s faith, which is having the utmost certainty in the doctrines of a particular belief system. If we are honest, many religious practices look completely irrational to people outside of that religion. Do you pray because you were TAUGHT to do this or do you BELIEVE that God is listening to you? If you are a person that believes in a religion that believes in God or multiple gods then your answer to this question is yes, while if you just practice that particular religion, then you may answer differently.
How Do Religions Start?

Technically, all the biggest religions today started off as a cult, which is a small, alternative faith community that represents either a new system of beliefs or a significant innovation in an existing faith. Three of the largest religions Judaism, Islam and Christianity, originated from one man, Abraham, and so were very small in the beginning. If you believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible, then Abraham and his wife Sara did not have a child until they were in their 90’s! Regardless, Judaism believes that Abraham’s son Isaac would receive the favor of God. However, Islam believes that God’s blessings would be with the son that Abraham had with his concubine Hagar, named Ishmael. Christianity started as a small cult called The Way and resulted because of the belief that Jesus Christ was the Messiah promised to Judaism and was a direct descendant of Abraham through the lineage of Judah.

When a cult grows large enough and survives past its originator, usually a government or ruling body legitimates these practices as a formal religion. However, when religions become big many times arguments emerge that cannot be reconciled because they represent major differences in their teachings. These disagreements often result in denominations, which is a large, organized branch of a major religion that teaches something specific within its belief structure that separates it from the general religion. In Judaism, there are three primary denominations Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative, while in Islam Sunni and Shia are the two major groups. Christianity has many denominations including but not limited to Catholics, Baptists, Lutheran, Methodists, Pentecostal, Messianic Judaism, and Calvary Chapel.

Many divisions within major religions are not the result of new doctrine, but a return to a religion’s foundational practices. A sect is a relatively small religious group that has broken away from some other religious organization to renew what it considers the original vision of the faith. These groups are commonly considered fundamentalist who are people that rigidly adhere to core religious doctrines that are often accompanied by literal applications of scripture and fight against secularization, which refers to religion’s diminishing influence in the public sphere, especially in politics and the economy. These distinctions are more likely to occur in religions with a history that extends over millennia such as Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. However, although the Church of Latter Day Saints (also known as Mormonism) is less than 200 years old, there are sects that desire a return to the polygamist practices that it was founded on that the main religion abandoned in the late 1800’s. One of these Mormon sects, Apostolic United Brethren (AUB) is the religion practiced by the people in the TV show, Sister Wives.
Movie 1.10 Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster
By Jules Suzdaltsev @ Test Tube

1) https://youtu.be/CqPw_kZRtj4 - Video

2) What is the main point of this video?

3) What example(s) do the authors use to illustrate their point(s)?
   Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

4) Search for other parody religions. What are the main tenants?
   Explain.
Functionalists would focus on how a sense of community is created for the people that practice a particular religion. Religious groups believe in the same answers to some of life’s most difficult questions, have a similar sense of morality and adhere to a specific set of behaviors. However, perhaps the most important practice that religious institutions perform is to provide members, and many times non-members, with emotional, physical and financial support in times of need. Helping people in this manner was crucial when Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast and broke through the levees in New Orleans, Louisiana in 2005. As government action failed even with over a week of preparation time, many religious groups and churches were the first respondents to people that were stuck on their rooftops with little to no food, no medical supplies all while being directly exposed to the elements.

Although religions can bring us together, conflict theorist focus on how these organizations serve two essential functions: to separate people from one another and to legitimize social stratification. History is filled with wars and other atrocities that are grounded in differences in religious dogma. The Crusades represented the struggle between Islam and Christianity as they fought over a city that they both considered sacred, Jerusalem. The French Wars of Religion was the conflict between Catholics and Protestants. Judaism versus Islam is at the center of international politics embodied in the conflict between Israel and

**Movie 1.11 Poetry in Praxis**

*Your God* by Rudy Francisco

1) [https://youtu.be/GT7Xpp7jgRs](https://youtu.be/GT7Xpp7jgRs) - Video

2) What is the poem about?

3) What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?

4) What do you think the poet believes is the problem?

5) Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
Palestine. While the Lebanese Civil War pitted Sunnis, Shiites, and Christians against each other. Although the nation that wins rules over the one that lost, conflict theorist would argue that the most important function that religion performs is to justify the oppression of the masses by the elite. Almost every religion suggests that God favors the wealthy ruling class of a particular society. Also, religion teaches us that poor people are a result of a lack of favor or personal misdeeds in this life or past lives in the religions that believe in reincarnation, rather than slavery, colonialism, imperialism and other types of structured oppression. But perhaps the most important purpose of religion is how is diffuses the dissatisfaction of the masses about the injustices faced in this life with the promise of a better life when they pass away. It is argued that this encourages people to not fight against the oppressive systems and social injustices that they currently face and to rely on divine justice rather than personal action.

Learning About the Sacred

Defining what is sacred and holy is the most fundamental activity of religions and symbolic interactionist desire to examine this process and how such symbols are used in our everyday lives. In the Hindu religion the swastika is a symbol of good luck and fortune, but if you were to wear this symbol in a Jewish synagogue, this would be considered insensitive and may be violently opposed because this was the symbol of Nazi Germany who was responsible for the deaths of millions of people of Jewish heritage. How does the symbol of the cross of Christianity become a standard shape for a sword in Europe and the crescent moon of Islam a scimitar in many places in the Middle East?

Movie 1.12 Poetry in Praxis

We are Connected by Youth Speaks Washington DC Team 2013

1) https://youtu.be/tv00xjClbx0 - Video
2) What is the poem about?
3) What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?
4) What do you think the poet believes is the problem?
5) Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?
Understanding these symbols and how they are used is important because the offended group will regard misuse very negatively. This issue was illustrated in the case where a newspaper in Denmark printed a political cartoon depicting the Prophet Mohammad with a bomb for a turban. This depiction was considered blasphemy to many people who practice Islam and caused a major international incident.
Chapter Vocabulary

Educational System (2)
Meritocracy (3)
Egalitarianism (5)
Credentialism (6)
Teacher Expectancy Effect (8)
Tracking (9)
Hidden Curriculum (9)
Heteronormative (10)
Religion (11)
Faith (12)
Cult (13)
Denominations (13)
Sect (13)

Key Terms

Credentialism (6)
Teacher Expectancy Effect (8)

Tracking (9)
Hidden Curriculum (9)

Bullet-point answer questions:

1) What are the five functions of the educational system?
2) What are the five questions that religion normally helps us answer?
3) Name at least 3 sociological things that could affect a teacher’s expectation of their students BEFORE they even interact with their students.

Short answer questions:

4) What is the difference between a cult, denomination and a sect and give an example of all three?
5) Does the US operate on meritocracy and egalitarianism in the educational system? Explain.
Critical thinking questions:

6) What is the relationship between tracking and hidden curriculum and give examples of how this works?

7) What is the difference between how functionalist and conflict theorist view religion? Which do you think is more correct to you? Explain.
Poetry in Praxis

I Hate School But Love Education by Suli Speaks

So you want... to get a degree Why? Let me tell you what society will tell you: Increases your chances of getting a job, Provides you an opportunity to be successful, Be a lot less stressful, Education is the key. Now let me tell you something your parents will tell you: Make me proud, Increases your chances of getting a job, Provides you an opportunity to be successful, Your life will be a lot less stressful, Education is the key. Now let’s look at the statistics, Steve Jobs - net worth seven billion R.I.P, Richard Branson - net worth four point two billion, Oprah Winfrey - two point seven billion, Mark Zuckerberg, Henry Ford, Steven Spielberg, Bill Gates Now here comes the Coup de grâce, Looking at these individuals, what’s your conclusion? Neither of them in being successful, Ever graduated from a higher learning institution. Now some of you may be like, Money is only the medium by which we measure worldly success, And some of you even have the nerve to say "I don't do it for the money." So what you studying for? To work for a charity? Need more clarity? Let’s look at the statistics: Jesus, Muhammed, Socrates, Malcolm X, Mother Teresa, Spielberg, Shakespeare, Beethoven, Jesse Owens, Muhammad Ali, Sean Carter, Michael Jeffrey Jordan, Michael Joseph Jackson. Were either of these people unsuccessful... or... uneducated? All I’m saying is that, If there was a family tree hard work and education would be related, But school would probably be a distant cousin, Because if education is the key, School is the lock, Because it rarely ever develops your mind to the point where it can perceive red as green and continue to go when someone else said stop. Because as long as you follow the rules and pass exams your cool, But are you aware that examiners have a checklist, And if your answer is something outside the box then the automatic response is a cross, And then they claim that school expands your horizons and your visions, Well tell that to Malcolm X who dropped out of school and is world renowned for what he learn in a prison. Proverbs 17:16 It does a fool no good to spend money on an education, Why? Because he has no common sense. George Bush. Need I say more? Education is about inspiring one’s mind, Not just filling their head, And take this from me because I’m an ‘Educated’ man myself, Who only came to this realization after countless nights in the library, With a can of red bull keeping me
awake till morning, Another can in the morning, Falling asleep between piles of books that probably equates to the same amount I spent on my rent, Memorize equations, facts and dates, Write down to the letter, Half of which I would never remember, And half of which I would forget straight after the exam, Before the start of the next semester, Asking anyone if they had notes for the last lecture. I often found myself running to class, Just so I could find a spot on which I could rest my head and just sleep without making a scene, Ironic because that’s the only time I ever spent in university chasing my dreams. And then after nights with a dead mind, I’d den find myself in a queue of half awake students, zombies, Waiting to hand in an assignment, Maybe that’s why they call it a deadline. And then after three years of mental suppression, And frustration, My "Proud Mother" didn’t even turn up to my graduation. Now, I’m not saying that school is evil and there’s nothing to gain, All I’m saying is: understand your motives and re-assess your aims, If you want a job working for someone else then help yourself, But then that would be a contradiction because you wouldn’t really be helping yourself, You’d be helping somebody else, There’s a saying that is: if you don’t build your dreams, someone else will hire you to help build theirs. Redefine how you view education, Understand it’s true meaning, Education is not just about regurgitating facts from a book, Or someone else’s opinion on a subject to pass an exam, Look at it. Picasso was educated at creating art, Shakespeare was educated in the art of all that was written, Colonel Harland Sanders was educated in the art of creating Kentucky Fried Chicken. I once saw David Beckham take a free kick, I watched as the side of his Adidas-sponsored boot hit the patent leather of the ball at an angle, Which caused it to travel towards the skies as though it was destined for the heavens, And then as it reached the peek of it’s momentum, As though it changed it’s mind, It switched directions. I watched as the goalkeeper froze, As though reciting to himself the laws of physics, And as though his brain was negotiating with his eyes, That was indeed witnessing the spectacle that was the leather swan that was swooping towards it, And then reacted, Though only a fraction of a millisecond too late, And before the net of the goal, Embraced the Fifa-Sponsored ball as though it was the prodigal son returning home, And the country, that I live in, Erupted into cheers, I looked at the play and thought, Damn, Looking at David Beckham, There’s more than one way in this world to be, An educated man. Peace.

**Movie 1.2 Poetry in Praxis**

*Education for Profit* by Joe Limer

If we rape and murder and call that democracy, why don’t we have a slaveholding institution and call it public education If man is defined by their dreams what does it mean when graduates sold 2/5 of their humanity to the cashier in accounts payable leaving 3/5 of a person. I watch students get shackled by credit hours and careers hung festering by the academic calendar Schools get fatter building empty classrooms off the billions of dollars in debt and the $25,000 per student per year in loans.
When we sacrifice free thought for profit, 40 acres and a mule becomes as much an illusory reparation as career counseling there is an irony our degrees call us master. I am a political science professor but I am an invisible man behind enemy lines running underground ideas in dimly lit and cramped spaces there is no space for food for thought so teaching becomes an uphill battle Mass produced uselessness, I want to give fighting skills. I want to black market knowledge and hand it out like weapons. Nat Turner these students into intellectual insurrection. Move us as blood brothers and sisters. Cut us and we drip the first amendment Veins eager for transfusion in deadened pop culture. No wonder we are fascinated with vampires. Our society is defined by our anemia The question “what do you want to be when you grow up” turns into a lottery ticket bought with the last dollar We lose faith in education so I find God within the creases of my degrees and speak from the pulpit with so much fire in my tongue that students raise hands to heaven like they’re lifting spirits from the dead. Dear school districts, administrators and college presidents Slavery is no longer legal in the world yet currently this is the most slaves we’ve had in history We’ve become a fast food conveyor belt of knowledge and empty calorie memorization students are numbers. Over 7 billion served and I am no longer hungry Ask me if I’m trying to advance a liberal agenda and I’ll say I’m getting students to think for themselves Ask me if I’m doing it for the money and I’ll show you my paycheck and then punch you in the throat Ask me why I do it and I will say I just want to teach. Maybe I am not built for the business of education but since when did it become a business When the University of Phoenix proudly proclaims its not in it for that expand your mind bullshit but just wants to fatten its wallets, we call that an education policy So go ahead, you fugitive and wear your college hoodie so they know who to return you to Sing your fight songs and alma mater like spirituals without spirit dear school districts. Dear administrators and college presidents What we need are more teachers who care about education and what we want is none of your business.

Movie 1.3 Equality versus Equity

they were going for career change and this person now wanted to you know take a statistics class in order to become to go into nursing and so she takes my stats class she is fearful for her life because throughout her whole life in the Equality model she has felt very stupid because she didn't ever do well in a math class however in this equity era that we live in she finds out that she has an alternative learning style and she receives the appropriate accommodations for my class and in my class and it just meant that she just needed some extended time now by the way this is not cheating what this is, is society acknowledging the education system acknowledging that the system is not set up for her and so therefore take this extra time take this little bit of extra time in order to process and let us really know what it is that you know and so to make a long story short she received an a-plus in my class not an a an a-plus and i remember when i told her her test
score first exam she broke down crying because she was literally scarred for her whole life because she felt like she was stupid because she didn’t know how to do well in math when all she really just needed were accommodations to her learning style and that’s not even the best part of the story the best part of the story is that she continues to go towards a masters degree in nursing and she writes a master’s thesis that is statistically based because she now has confidence in her math abilities because she knows that there’s that she has an alternative learning style and doesn’t feel so stupid anymore and so anyway equality then in our education system has made us miss out on a lot of brilliant people and I hope that our pursuit and focus on equity changes a lot of that

**Movie 1.4 Poetry in Praxis**

*Somewhere in America* by Belissa Escobedo, Rhiannon McGavin, and Zariya Allen

Here in America, in every single state, they have a set of standards for every subject A collection of lessons that the teacher’s required to teach by the end of the term But the greatest lessons you’ll ever teach us will not come from your syllabus The greatest lessons you will ever teach us, you will not even remember You never told us what we weren't allowed to say We just learned how to hold our tongues Now somewhere in America, there is a child holding a copy of “Catcher in the Rye” and there is a child holding a gun But only one of these things have been banned by their state government And it’s not the one that can rip through flesh It’s the one that says “fuck you” on more pages than one Because we must control what the people say, and how they think And if they want to become the overseer of their own selves, then we’ll show them a real one And somewhere in America, there’s a child sitting at his mother’s computer, reading the homepage of the KKK’s website, and that’s open to the public But that child will never have read “To Kill a Mockingbird” because the school has banned it for it’s use of the “N” word Maya Angelou is prohibited because we’re not allowed to talk about rape in school We were taught that ‘just because something happens, doesn’t mean you are to talk about it’ They built us brand new shopping malls so that we’ll forget where we’re really standing On the bones of the Hispanics, on the bones of the slaves, on the bones of the Native Americans, on the bones of those who fought just to speak! Transcontinental Railroad to Japanese Internment Camps There are things missing from our history books But we were taught that it is better to be silent, than to make them uncomfortable Somewhere in America, private school girls search for hours through boutiques, trying to find the prom dress of their dreams While kids on the south side spending hours searching through the 'lost and found' ‘cause winter’s coming soon and that’s the only jacket they have Kids are late to class for working the midnight shift They give awards for best attendance, but not for keeping your family off the streets These kids will call your music ghetto, they will tell you you don’t talk right Then they’ll get in the backseat of a car with all their
friends singing ‘bout how “They’re ‘bout that life” and “we can’t stop” Somewhere in America, schools are promoting self confidence While they whip out their scales and shout out your body fat percentage in class While heftier girls are hiding away, and the slim fit beauties can’t help but giggle with pride The preppy kids go thrift shopping ‘cause they think it sounds real fun But we don’t ‘cause that’s all we got money for ‘Cause momma works for the city, momma only gets paid once a month

Somewhere in America, a girl is getting felt up by a grown man on the subway She’s still in her school uniform and that’s part of the appeal It’s hard to run in knee socks and Mary Jane’s, and all her male teachers know it too Coaches cover up the star players raping freshmen after the dance Women are killed for rejecting dates, but God forbid I bring my girlfriend to prom Girls black out drunk at the after party, take a picture before her wounds wake her How many pixels is your sanity worth? What’s a 4.0 to a cold jury? What’d you learn in class today? Don’t walk fast, don’t speak loud, keep your hands to yourself, keep your head down Keep your eyes on your own paper, if you don’t know the answer, fill in “C” Always wear earbuds when you ride the bus alone If you feel like someone’s following you, pretend you’re on the phone A teacher never fails, only you do Every state in America, the greatest lessons, are the ones you don’t remember learning

Movie 1.5 Credentialism is really an “ism”

So as a result of the higher percentages of people who have high school diplomas businesses everywhere have been raising their educational requirements even though the jobs that they’re raising those educational requirements don’t really need a degree. It’s actually really easy to see when a BA is not required for a particular job um if you look at the job announcement and you just see BA required, then you know that you do not need to BA for the job because think about it are you really trying to tell me that a person with a BA and mathematics has the same skillset as a person with a BA in let’s say English if you were to tell me that the BA in mathematics was necessary I would assume that my higher mathematical reasoning abilities would come into play into that job while I have a BA in English it required then I would assume that there was a lot more writing and reading associated with that particular job right and so although preferences for people with higher degrees serves as motivation to go to college what makes credentialism an ism like sexism is an ism is that the degree hike put people in lower social economic classes at a serious disadvantage in the workplace alright so because it’s not a big secret that the Great Recession caused fees for colleges to go skyrocketing even at a community college level in California the price of tuition nearly doubled right and just to put things in perspective on that my sister who was just five years older than I am went to Community College in California when tuition was free so people in the upper classes have a distinct advantage when it
comes to paying for college and having parents with the time energy and knowledge to help their children through the system however it can also be argued that credentialism is an ism because it serves as a form of colorblind racism because white people are more likely to complete their BA than black people and Chicano Latinos in general but more specifically to the men of those of particular populations now remember you need to couple that with the fact that you really don’t need a BA to do a lot of these jobs and then you can definitely argue that credentialism privileges higher class white people and so this is why i would argue that credentialism is actually an ism

**Movie 1.6 Poetry in Praxis**

*What You Said?* by Blanca Castro

What you said? Can you repeat it again please? You said that I’ll never gonna do anything in the United States? Just because I don’t know how to speak English? Is that your only reason? Or it is only your opinion? Don’t you remember you are bilingual? I wanna be bilingual too Please help me to continue What you said? You said it again? Why? Don’t you suppose be helping your people? I’m your people too I just wanna know, Who helped you? Nobody? So, you born bilingual? What you said? Do not disturb you anymore? Just let me talk to you For the last time of my life I wanna thank you, Le quiero dar las gracias Because with your indifference Porque con su indiferencia You made my dreams stronger Hizo mis sueños más fuertes And Yes I can continue And one day I’ll be Bilingual, Like you Too!

That day is TODAY! Let’s talk about now, now, NOW; De hoy! Remember once you said that I was never going to amount to anything in the United States Because I didn’t know how to speak English? If graduating from the best college I know, is not doing anything?! Then you tell me what it is? Digame qué es? If going to school everyday and loving it, is not doing anything? Then, tell me what I am doing? Digame qué estoy haciendo? If performing this poem in English is not speaking your language Then explain me what it is? Expliqueme qué es? I proved you wrong And it is not for your own benefit I proved myself I can do everything I want And I don’t need people like you That only say things to mess up student’s future But here I am, Years later And guess what? I am not only bilingual I don’t only speak Spanish and English Español e Ingles But I also speak Integrity= Integridad Values= Valores Leadership= Liderazgo My Culture= Mi cultura And/ Y Ethics=Etica These are words that I can speak in many languages That you can’t speak in any And I am not only bilingual I am ... multilingual

**Movie 1.7 Poetry in Praxis**

*Mediocre* by the Professor

I want to be a mediocre professor I want to be just alright, nothing special I want to be boring with a voice as annoying as a dripping
faucet I want to be the professor that cracks himself up with his own jokes. When no one else gets it I want to act like taking attendance is the most important part of my day Bueler Bueler and then go on to jack ben stein’s money because I want to teach for the money or at least teach for the vacations I want to teach simply because I can’t do what I teach, I can’t be the word so I preach about how important it is for you to know what it is that I know but never get you to thinking I want to teach you the test so you’ll graduate and be happy but you passing that test only means you can barely read and write at an eighth grade level and I want to teach at a school that only has metal shop, auto shop and wood shop and not even bother with AP classes because look not everyone is designed to go to college like poor people and black and brown people and especially the poor black and brown people but anyway I want to be barely qualified so I can get a job at some thugged out backwater inner city school that has no hope of teaching the students anything useful but I'll get a gold star because I show up to call role call in hell and I want to wait for that bell and once it rings I want run out the doors of the school than my students so I can finally be free and I want to teach my students the value of Angelo conformity so that I can talk to them about bob Dylan who sang cocaine is running around in my brain because that will make their minds dangerous and I want freedom writers to write freely about the Jewish Holocaust connect that to their current reality in the inner-city but not have them comprehend that their present situation didn’t just start with some black dude being pulled out of his car and being damn near beat to death by the police and that you would have to go back at least 400 years to begin to see the dehumanization of black folks started with slavery and that this country is built on in contradictions like on how all men are supposed to be created equal but black people were pinned into three fifths of a man and I also don’t want you to understand that the mass murder of 6 million Jewish people is considered a holocaust and that the 60 million or more African captives that died during the middle passage would have to be considered apocalypse and I want to teach my students concepts and theories as obsolete as the 8 Track in this digital age but always say things were better back in the 50s cause that was the height of white masculinity and we had shows on TV like my three sons and father knows best and I guess that was great and all but during that same time period black folks were fighting for their lives just to order a cup of coffee or to stop being that strange fruit hanging from a tree so look I guess things worked better when we didn’t have to worry about that pesky idea called equality and lastly I want to be the professor the tells his students only once in his life what he really thinks is important, I only do it because my death is imminent and everything that I have to say will have nothing to do with what I taught every day in life like how god can make a way out of noways so I wanna be a mediocre professor I want to be alright nothing special because what's the use in trying to be good.
I’m not trying to brag or anything but I’m going to tell you about my night last night Had a couple beers, ya know Yeah, got a little tipsy Got a little existential crisis-y Last night I drunk text messaged God I just wanted to tell him I’d been thinkin’ about him A lot And to tell him I’m stalking a church I meant to write starting a church No one spells drunk texts right, anyway Last night I sent out a buttload of embarrassing texts and then copied them to everyone I know Like “Yo” Like “Sup” I was out sinning Curled in a bed The room is spinning It’s all in my head I can’t get to sleep And the weight of the world Is the weight of my sheets Here’s the great thing about my church: You can keep your religion ‘cause my church is for those of us who grew up wishing we believed in an afterlife And for those of us who were so close to god we could practically lean over and make out with her My church is sick of bloody crusades to the march of drum corps I’ll start a church that gets pissed off and starts thumb wars Maybe a church that gets Mondays off for religion reasons A church that throws phone parties in elevators to learn about praise The roof, the roof is on fire We’ll dance as it burns for 8 magical days That was a Jewish reference No o ffense to Gideon bibles but my church goes into hotel rooms and fills up the drawers with chocolate pillow mints And my church, if you choose to come to Sunday school, you don’t learn about hell Hell no You eat Jon Stewart and Steven Colbert shaped potato chips and watch Chapelle’s show My church had 10 commandments, 5 precepts, and a workplace abuse handbook but we partied hard last week and I think we left them in a restroom at Chuckie Cheese Now we just go by a picture of a heart that I found on a bar napkin My church tongue-kissed your mom last night Um, I’m just kidding She left 5 red fingers across my face We hung out with the creator I think she loves you She’s beautiful She’s got ‘daughter’ tattooed on her left bicep ‘Son’ on her right My church is at the center of the planet and has the most amazing stained-glass windows The glass is the floor of the ocean The colors are where you look up and see blue and a manatee I love manatees And the forest canopy Tony Montana comes to my church and forgets he left his cocaine in the car We play “Stairway to Heaven” on Hendrix’s broken guitar My church gets fucked up on communion wine Asks lamp posts to be our Valentine My church bar hops together And my church, if you don’t blow yourself to smitherines, you get 17 virgins in a room to yourself Or you go and play Starfox together My church got beat up by the skateboard kids for being a rollerblade kid But rolled to school the next day on one skate and 2 crutches True to the fight With a fist in the air Screaming “fruit Buddhas unite!” My church can feel it’s pulse in it’s fingertips Has 3 stomachs because our fear is hard to swallow But love always has room My church has a love bladder and always asks to go to the bathroom There are drawbacks of course: My church will not resurrect your dead hamster My church will not play for keeps Wear Versace Give out baby Jesus
Tomagachi’s And Tom Cruise thinks my church sucks balls I’m not Jesus Christ But I can turn water into Kool-Aid And I’m not Jim Jones But my church is like, totally a cult And everyone drinks the Kool-Aid And everyone dies! But for some people the Kool-Aid doesn’t kick in until you’re 105 Surrounded by everyone who matters most to you Yes, some of us go early, but at my church you have to think about that possibility ‘Cause my church makes you scared I’m talkin’ like waves of fear Like you’re lying awake at night And you pull the blankets up to your neck And your covers are like a tsunami of fear And you start hyperventilating Thinking about how you’re getting older way faster than your dreams are getting accomplished About how skinny your arms are About how fat your tummy is About how much it’s gonna suck to eventually lose the power to think about all the badass stuff we do at our church Don’t fall asleep yet.

**Movie 1.9 Religion versus Science**

While my college was trying to shape it’s mission statement I had a colleague say that if we stated that one of our missions was to help people find meaning and purpose in life that he would literally separate the biology department from the college and quite honestly I think he was serious but anyway although it is wholly appropriate for him and others to question whether a public institution should have as one of it’s goals to help people find purpose and meaning in life. human beings across the world continue to struggle with this very thing now with my limited time on this planet what I’ve been able to figure out is that science is really good at answering the question of how something happens we can explain how two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen combine to make a molecule of water but we don’t know why it happens we just know how it happens all we know that we are carbon-based life-forms but we don’t know why it was carbon rather than silicon. Many scientists and atheists are comfortable with the answer that just says that this is all just random chance and that there’s no real meaning to our lives and that when we die we just cease to exist however religion normally offers more uniform "quote" answers to questions such as these right the wheel of samsara Buddhism may explain why pain and suffering happen in our world the five pillars of faith of Islam gives people a structured way to live their lives you may have the same goal of universal peace as people of Baha’i faith or you can learn how to love your neighbors including your enemies from true Christians, but regardless of your belief structure what I hope for as a sociologist and also has a Christian myself is that one day we will see that science and religion don’t have to be perceived as if they were in direct opposition with each other

**Movie 1.10 Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster**

By Jules Suzdaltsev @ Test Tube

Wow we actually did it thanks to all of you watching and liking and sharing we finally hit 1 million subscribers there are just so many people we need to thank our loyal viewers our sister shows
and the entire test tube and discovery team now over the past few years we’ve spent a lot of time looking at religious figures but we’ve been saving one of the most influential for last his noodly appendage the flying spaghetti monster because we have pasta million subs we wanted to know just how powerful is the flying spaghetti monster well first off it may help to explain that the flying spaghetti monster is the central deity in Pastafarianism which is actually a protest or parody religion religious satire has been around almost as long as organized religion stretching back to ancient Greek plays in 400 BC today organizations like the Temple of the Invisible Pink Unicorn, Last Thursdayism or Jedi-ism are created to point out flaws in belief based logic usually related to Christianity. For example Last Thursdayism believes that the universe was created last Thursday parodying the biblical interpretation that the universe is less than 10,000 years old one of the most famous religious satires is Russell’s teapot this was a thought experiment by philosopher Bertrand Russell he proposed that a small teapot was in orbit around the Sun and he challenged anyone to prove him wrong since it would be basically impossible to locate such a teapot it’s basically impossible to disprove its existence which parodies a central argument for the existence of a god similarly the flying spaghetti monster was invented in 2005 by Bobby Henderson after the Kansas State Board of Education and acted controversial education enacted standards including creationism or intelligent design Henderson argued that there was just as much evidence for his belief in a flying omnipotent heap of spaghetti and meatballs as there was for creationism demanding that Pastafarianism was taught as well there are a few important central tenets to Pastafarianism pirates are the most divine beings and likely to go to Pastafarian heaven which is full of beer volcanoes and stripper factories additionally the slow drop in the number of pirates worldwide is directly attributed to the rise in global average temperature earthquakes hurricanes and other natural disasters as such full pirate regalia must be worn at all times the religion claims to have 10 million followers roughly two-thirds the size of Judaism and roughly 220 times smaller than Christianity but as a matter of fact pastafarianism is officially recognized in a number of countries including Poland, the Netherlands, and New Zealand and although it’s not officially recognized in the United States in 2015 a woman in Massachusetts was even allowed to wear a pasta colander on her head for a driver’s license photo claiming it was religious headgear above all else the flying spaghetti monster really represents the growing face of atheism and the religiously unaffiliated today those without a religious preference make up the third largest religious group after Christianity and Islam with more than a billion non-adherence worldwide from 2007 to 2014 atheists and agnostics in the United States rose from about 36 million more than 55 million meanwhile the conversation about the place of religion in a secular world has only gotten larger and more heated so just how powerful is the flying spaghetti monster spaghetti about it anyway thanks for being one in a million tests tubers we literally could have done it without you and let’s keep this going let’s hit our next goal a billion subscribers right if you
want to learn more about the changing face of religion worldwide and what the next few decades will look like find out more in this video but the five big ones are Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, plus the unaffiliated today Christians and Muslims make up roughly half of the world’s population with 31 and twenty-three percent respectively thanks for watching and make sure to look out for a big announcement from us in the coming days

**Movie 1.11 Poetry in Praxis**

*Your God* by Rudy Francisco

Last month it also got into another big, it was a rough feature. Ughhhm, I was like talking to people for like 30 minutes afterwards. Ummm, so I’m a believer in God and I also believe that God doesn’t hate anyone, and it really bothers me when I see people who do hainus acts in the name of God. I also feel like we may not be praying to the same being because my God would never condone some of the things that I’ve seen people do in the name of God’s name. So I wrote this poem. Here we go:

To the man standing on the corner holding the sign that said “God hates faggots.” I’ve never seen exactly who it is that you paperclip your knees, meld your hands together and pray to. But I think I know what he looks like: I bet your God is about 5’10”. I bet he weighs 185. Probably stands the way a high school diploma does when it’s next to a GED. I bet your god has a mullet. I bet he wears flannel shirts with no sleeves, a fanny pack and says words like “Get’er’ dun.” I bet your god—I bet your god—I bet your god watches FOX news, Dog the Bounty Hunter, voted for John McCain, and loves Bill O’Reilly. I bet your god lives in Arizona. I bet his high school served racism in the cafeteria and offered “hate speech” as a second language. I bet he has a swastika inside of his throat, and racial slurs tattooed to his tongue just to make intolerance more comfortable in his mouth. I bet he has a burning cross as a middle finger and Jim Crow underneath his nails. Your god is a confederate flags wet dream conceived on a day when the sky decided to slice her own wrists, I bet your god has a drinking problem. I bet he sees the bottom of the shot glass more often than his own children. I bet he pours whiskey on his dreams until they taste like good ideas, Probably cusses like an electric guitar with tourette’s plugged into an ocean. I bet he yells like a schizophrenic nail gun, damaging all things that care about him enough to get close. I bet there are angels in Heaven with black eyes and broken halos who claimed they fell down the stairs. I bet your god would’ve made Eve without a mouth and taught her how to spread her legs like a magazine that she will never ever, ever be pretty enough to be in. Sooner or later you will realize that you are praying to your own shadow, that you are standing in front of mirrors and are worshipping your own reflection. Your God stole my god’s identity and I bet he’s buying pieces of heaven on eBay. So next time you bend your knees, next time you bow your head I want you to tell your god—that my god is looking for him.
**Movie 1.12 Poetry in Praxis**

*We are Connected* by Youth Speaks Washington DC Team 2013

Male Voice: He's on the stage. [crowd chanting]

Together: We're just a little too caught up in the way the world sees us
Jewish Girl: And the way my people see yours,
Muslim Girl: And the way my people see yours,
Together: And the way our people see ourselves.
Jewish Girl: In 1996, a Jewish girl was born, with the Shabbat candles glistening in her eyes.
Muslim Girl: In 1996, a Muslim girl was born, with the Adhan ringing in her ears.
Together: She only knew of her own, um
Muslim Girl: Jumu’ah,
Jewish Girl: Kabbalat Shabbat,
Muslim Girl: Nasheeds,
Jewish Girl: Z’mirot,
Muslim Girl: Allah,
Jewish Girl: Adonai.
Together: She never noticed
Muslim Girl: That Jewish girl
Jewish Girl: That Muslim girl
Together: holding the same needles and threads that she did.
Muslim Girl: So in quilted generations from stitches and calloused palms of their past
Jewish Girl: Friday prayers
Muslim Girl: Religious songs
Together: Like, God, we are both birthed from resilience, yet raised by assumptions
Jewish Girl: This Jewish girl
Muslim Girl: Muslim girl
Together: Only heard:
Muslim Girl: Dirty money.
Jewish Girl: Oppressive husbands.
Muslim Girl: Big-nosed banker.
Jewish Girl: Suspicious terrorist.
Muslim Girl: Gas chamber.
Jewish Girl: Go back home!
Muslim Girl: But--but it’s 2013,
Together: Right?
Jewish Girl: So all that’s done.
Together: Right? So why is it that every time
Jewish Girl: A penny falls, I’m assumed to be the one to pick it up? Stealing from every man’s pocket,
Together: And every time
Muslim Girl: The airport security check line moves forward, I’m the one who’s pulled aside and patted down?
Jewish Girl: We both look discrimination in the eye.
Muslim Girl: We both live in a country that swears up and down that all people are equal.
Together: Our hands should be caught together, fists raised as one, fighting against the stereotype that this country has put upon
my people.

Jewish Girl: In Habron, a 14-year-old Palestinian girl was killed when a Jewish settler shot a bullet into her right eye. She'll never get to witness her holy land come back to her.

Muslim Girl: In Herzliya, a 14-year-old Israeli girl was killed by a Palestinian pipe bomb. She was just trying to eat her dinner at her favorite restaurant by the beach.

Jewish Girl: We are told to stay within the confines of our religion,

Muslim Girl: Of our tradition,

Jewish Girl: As if a young Palestinian girl's life ended by Israeli gunfire

Muslim Girl: Is worth any more or less than a young Israeli girl's life ended by a Palestinian pipe bomb.

Jewish Girl: This world would rather chew up and spit out our history than help these two girls

Muslim Girl: That could have been us.

Jewish Girl: This world has devoured our past,

Muslim Girl: But how quickly it forgets

Together: You are what you eat.

Jewish Girl: See, this Jewish girl

Muslim Girl: And this Muslim girl

Together: Are for more similar than our religions would like us to believe, because I betcha didn't realize

Jewish Girl: That we have the same favorite movies,

Muslim Girl: And that we both love

Together: Hummus! And we keep being asked the same damn questions every time we fall head over heels:

Jewish Girl: Is he a respectable Muslim boy?

Muslim Girl: Jewish boy?

Jewish Girl: Did you meet him at the mosque?

Muslim Girl: The synagogue?

Jewish Girl: That little Palestinian girl

Muslim Girl: And that little Israeli girl

Together: Will never get to be asked these questions,

Jewish Girl: Never get to discover that they have the same favorite movies,

Muslim Girl: Or whether they were both gonna become poets,

Together: Performing on stages like this one,

Jewish Girl: And we may not have either,

Muslim Girl: Had we let the way the world sees us get in our way.

Together: We are connected. We are one.

Jewish Girl: Like Adonai.

Muslim Girl: Like Allah.

Together: Like God.

[crowd cheering]