

- **Appendix 1.1 Student A: What is Slam Poetry?**

Slam poetry is a form of performance poetry that combines the elements of performance, writing, competition, and audience participation. Slam poems use some of the forms of traditional poetry but tend to eschew such devices and favour slam poems that are a social or political commentary, on theme that resonate strongly with the audience. They are delivered ‘live’ with emotional intensity designed to engage and provoke strong feelings in the audience and make a lasting impression on them. Slam poets are performed at events called poetry slams, or simply slams. The name slam came from how the audience has the power to praise or, sometimes, destroy a poem and from the high-energy performance style of the poets.

The concept of slam poetry originated in the 1980s in Chicago, Illinois, when a local poet and construction worker, Marc Kelly Smith, feeling that poetry readings and poetry in general had lost their true passion, had an idea to bring poetry back to the people – the poetry slam.

Today slam poetry is considered an artistic movement as well as a genre of poetry and spoken word. The slam poetry movement inspired hundreds of poetry slams across the United States, Canada, parts of Europe, Japan, and Australasia and slam poets influence many aspects of modern culture, art, media, literature, entertainment and political movements.



Appendix 1.2 Student B: What is a poetry slam?

Marc Kelly Smith, a local poet and construction worker in Chicago, had the idea of bringing poetry back to the people via the poetry slam. He created a weekly poetry event—the poetry slam—where anyone could participate. Poets would perform their work and then be judged by five random audience members on a scale of 0 to 10. Out of the five, the highest and lowest scores were dropped and the three remaining scores were added to give the poet an overall score. Whoever had the highest score at the end of the competition was deemed the winner.

Poetry slams are held in any venue that welcomes them, such as parks, bookstores, coffeehouses, and bars. Although the rules associated with poetry slams may vary by venue or event, there are general guidelines that are often adhered to:

1. Anyone, regardless of age, race, sex, education, class, disability, gender, or sexuality, can compete.
2. Poems can be about any subject but typically are supposed to be the creation of the performing poet.
3. Poems are not to exceed a three-minute limit (with 10-second grace period); if they do, points are deducted.
4. No props may be used when performing the poem.
5. No musical accompaniment or musical instruments may be used when performing, but the poet is allowed to sing, clap, hum, or make noise with the mouth or other body parts.
6. Poets may perform on their own or in groups with other poets.

Smith’s vision also spawned the National Poetry Slam, an annual five-day poetry slam held in a different American city each year, where teams of poets compete from cities all over the United States and Canada to determine who is the best in the genre. Though a number of poets find the competitive nature associated with slam to be unfair and the nature of the poems to be too informal and unconventional, slam poetry has become one of the most-accessible forms of poetry available.

Appendix 1.3 Student C: What's the difference between rap and slam poetry?

Rap and slam poetry are both forms of spoken word expression, but they have distinct characteristics and cultural roots.

Rap:

- 1. Musical Accompaniment:** Rap is often associated with music and typically includes a rhythmic and rhyming flow of words performed over a beat. It is a genre of music that originated in African American and Latino communities in the Bronx, New York City, during the 1970s.
- 2. Rhyming Scheme:** Rapping commonly involves intricate rhyme schemes and wordplay. The rhythm and flow are essential elements, and rappers often use complex lyrics to convey their messages.
- 3. Commercial Presence:** Rap has become a mainstream music genre with a strong commercial presence, and many rap artists have achieved widespread recognition and success in the music industry.

Slam Poetry:

- 1. Performance Style:** Slam poetry is a form of spoken word poetry that focuses on the oral and performance aspects of the art. Performers, often referred to as slam poets, present their work in a dynamic and engaging manner, emphasizing voice modulation, gestures, and facial expressions.
- 2. Competitive Element:** Slam poetry is often associated with poetry slams, which are competitive events where poets perform their work before an audience and a panel of judges. The emphasis is on the performance and delivery of the poem, and the judging criteria may include factors such as content, style, and audience engagement.
- 3. Minimal Musical Accompaniment:** Unlike rap, slam poetry is generally not accompanied by music. The focus is primarily on the spoken word and the poet's ability to connect with the audience through their performance.

While both rap and slam poetry involve spoken word expression and can address a variety of themes, the key differences lie in their musical accompaniment, performance style, and cultural contexts. Rap is deeply rooted in the music industry and often features complex rhyming schemes, while slam poetry emphasizes the live performance aspect and may include a competitive element in a poetry slam setting.

Appendix 2 Answer Key

Slam Poetry (6 areas & 25 units of information)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's a form of performance poetry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. combines performing, writing competing and audience participation b. not big on using forms of trad poetry c. social / political commentary on issues that resonate with the audience d. delivered live with emotional intensity e. designed to provoke and engage, audience f. create lasting impression 2. The name "slam" comes from <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. how the audience has the power to praise or destroy i.e. slam a poem and b. the high energy performance style of the poets 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. originated in Chicago, in US in 1980's <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. by Marc (with a "c" not a "k") Smith b. a construction worker who 4. wanted to bring the passion of poetry back to the people it's an art movement, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a genre of poetry and b. spoken word 5. now global movement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. US & Canada, b. Europe, c. Japan, d. Australasia 6. influencing culture, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. art, b. media, c. literature d. entertainment & e. political movements
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Poetry slams (6 areas & 21 units of information)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are weekly events - competitions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. performers perform their work to live audience, b. judged by 5 random audience members on scale 0 – 10. c. highest and lowest scores are dropped and the three remaining scores added to give the poet an overall score. d. highest score at the end of the competition wins. 2. they can be held anywhere: parks, bookshops, bars, cafes 3. rules may vary but <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. anyone can compete b. poems can be about anything c. poems should be the creation of the poet d. poems cannot be longer than 3 minutes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. Poets can't use props f. Poets can't have musical accompaniment but they can sing clap hum, etc. g. Poets can perform alone or in groups 4. There are also national competitions in the US <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annual poetry slams b. five day events c. in a different US city every year d. performers / teams from anywhere in US & Canada e. to determine who is best in genre. 5. some poets feel the competition is unfair, &/or feel the poems are too informal and unconventional 6. but they are now most accessible form of poetry available
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Differences between rap and slam poetry (approx. 4 areas & 25 units of info)

1. **Both** are forms of spoken word expression but they have
 - a. different characteristics and
 - b. cultural roots
2. **Rap**
 - a) rap is performed with musical accompaniment and
 - b) emphasise rhythmic and rhyme
 - c) they owe their origin to the
 - a. African American and
 - b. Latino communities
 - c. in the Bronx in New York
 - d. in the 1970s
 - d) the rhymes are complex and involve word play
 - e) rap is commercial
 - a. part of mainstream music industry and
 - b. rap artists are / can be very successful
3. **Slam poetry**
 - a) it's performance oriented spoken word poetry
 - b) focuses on oral and performance aspects
 - c) slam poets are dynamic and engage the audience with their
 - a. voice modulation,
 - b. gestures and
 - c. facial expressions
 - d) slam poetry has a competitive element
 - a. they performed for the audience and for the judges and
 - b. the emphasis is on performance and delivery
 - c. judges score content, style, and audience engagement
 - e) there's no musical accompaniment
4. **The key differences** are
 - a. musical accompaniment vs. performance style and cultural context
 - b. rap is music and slam is live
 - c. slam is competitive, rap is not

Appendix 3 Smartphones

Smartphones have become an integral part of daily life, offering a mix of positive and negative aspects. Here's a detailed overview:

Positive Aspects of Smartphones:

1. Communication:

- Instant messaging, voice, and video calls make staying in touch with family, friends, and colleagues easier, regardless of location.

2. Convenience:

- Smartphones combine multiple devices (camera, GPS, music player, etc.) into one, reducing the need for multiple gadgets.
- They offer quick access to information, including news, weather, and directions.

3. Access to Information:

- The internet and various apps provide access to a vast amount of knowledge and resources, including educational content, tutorials, and online courses.

4. Productivity:

- Smartphones support a wide range of apps for scheduling, note-taking, email, file sharing, and collaboration, which helps in personal and professional management.

5. Entertainment:

- They provide entertainment through games, social media, streaming services, and eBooks, all easily accessible from anywhere.

6. Navigation and Location Services:

- Built-in GPS allows for accurate navigation, traffic updates, and finding local services, which can be crucial for traveling and exploring new areas.

7. Health and Fitness:

- Health and fitness apps help track physical activity, monitor diet, manage mental health, and encourage healthier lifestyles.

8. Photography and Videography:

- Smartphones have powerful cameras that enable users to capture high-quality photos and videos, promoting creativity and easy sharing.

9. Emergency Uses:

- They provide a means to quickly contact emergency services, share locations, and receive alerts for natural disasters or other emergencies.

10. Connectivity and Smart Ecosystem Integration:

- Smartphones can act as central hubs for controlling smart home devices, connecting with wearables, and integrating with other IoT (Internet of Things) technologies.

Negative Aspects of Smartphones:

1. Addiction and Overuse:

- Excessive screen time can lead to addiction, impacting productivity, mental health, and real-world social interactions.

2. Privacy and Security Risks:

- Smartphones are vulnerable to hacking, malware, and phishing attacks, potentially compromising sensitive personal information.

3. Health Issues:

- Prolonged smartphone use is associated with physical health problems, such as eye strain, poor posture, and sleep disturbances due to blue light exposure.

4. Distraction:

- Notifications, apps, and social media can be major distractions, reducing focus and increasing the likelihood of accidents, especially while driving.

5. Impact on Social Skills:

- Over-reliance on digital communication can reduce face-to-face interactions, affecting social skills and deepening feelings of loneliness or isolation.

6. Environmental Impact:

- The production and disposal of smartphones contribute to environmental degradation due to e-waste and the mining of rare materials.

7. Cost:

- High-end smartphones and data plans can be expensive, creating a financial burden for some users.

8. Negative Impact on Mental Health:

- Exposure to negative content, cyberbullying, and social comparison on social media platforms can contribute to anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

9. Data Consumption and Battery Life:

- High data consumption can result in increased costs, and limited battery life can be inconvenient, requiring frequent charging.

10. Reduced Attention Span:

- Constant multitasking and short-form content consumption can reduce attention spans and make deep, focused work more challenging.

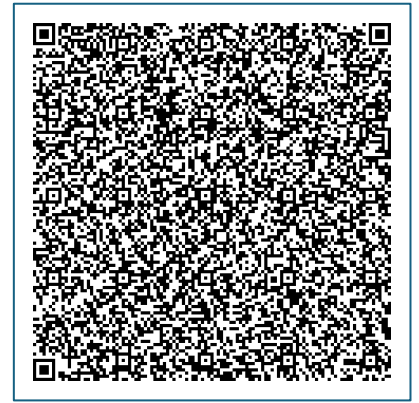
Summary:

While smartphones provide numerous benefits in terms of connectivity, productivity, and convenience, they also pose risks related to health, security, privacy, and social well-being. It's crucial to find a balance in their use to maximize their advantages while mitigating potential downsides.

Appendix 4 Touchscreen: a digital age lament Marshall "Soulful" Jones



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFX2LrNE3VI>



Introducing the new Apple iPerson complete with multitouch.
Doesn't it feel good to touch? Doesn't it feel good to touch?
Compatible with your iPod, in your iPad.
Doesn't it feel good to touch? Doesn't it feel good to touch?
No friends: there is an app for that.
No life: there is an app for that.
You're a complete loser: there is an app for that.
Doesn't it feel good to touch? Doesn't it feel good to touch?
Doesn't it feel good to touch?
My world, my world has become so digital, I have forgotten what that feels like.
It was difficult to connect when friends formed cliques.
Now it's even more difficult to connect now that clicks form friends.
But who am I to judge?
I face Facebook more than books face me, hoping to book face-to-faces.
I update my status 420 spaces to prove I am still breathing failure.
To do this daily means my whole web wide world will forget that I exist.
But with 3,000 friends online and only five I can count in real life,
why wouldn't I spend more time in a world where there're more people that 'like' me?
Wouldn't you?
Here, it doesn't matter if I'm an amateur person, as long as I have a 'pro' file.
My smile is 50% genuine; 50% genuine HD.
You would need blu-rays to read what is really me.
But I'm not that focused.
Ten tabs open hoping my problems are resolved, with a 1600 by 1700 resolution,
proven, we might have missed a step in this evolution.

Doubled over, we used to sit in tree tops.
So we swung down to stand upright and someone slipped a disc,
and now we are doubled over at desktops.
From the Garden of Eden, to the branches of Macintosh, apple picking has always come at a great cost.
iPod, iMac, iPhone, iChat.
I can do all of these things without making eye contact.
We used to sprint to pick and store blackberries.
Now we run to the Sprint Store and pick Blackberries, it's scary.
I can't hear the sound of mother nature speaking over all this tweeting,
and our ability to feel along with it is fleeting.
You would think headphone jacks inject in the flesh the way we connect,
to disconnect power on, until we are powerless.
We might be love drugged.
Like e-pills.
So we E*TRADE, email, e-motion like e-commerce, because now money can buy love for \$9.95 a month.
Click: to proceed the checkout.
Click: to x out where our hearts once where.
Click: I've uploaded this hug, I hope she gets it.
Click: I'm making love to my wife, I hope she's logged in.
Click: I'm holding my daughter over a Skype conference call,
while she's crying in the crib in the next room.
Click: So when my phone goes off in my hip, iTouch and iTouch and iTouch and iTouch and iTouch, because in a world where laughter is never heard, and voices are only read,
we're so desperate to feel that we hope our Technologic can reverse the universe, and so the screen can touch us back.
And maybe one day it will.
When our technology is advanced enough ...
To make us human again

Appendix 5 Presentation

Synopsis

- A: *Touchscreen* is a slam poem about our addiction to technology, especially smart phones.
B: It is a social commentary on how smartphones have taken over our lives.
C: It is a lament about our substituting F2F interaction and relationships for unreal, online interaction.
A: It is a plea for technology to enable us to reverse this and make us human again.

Theme / message

- B: It was first performed in 2011 but it is very relevant to today's concerns with technology.
C: It ignores the positive benefits of smart phones like instant free communication and access to information, and
A: focuses on the downsides like scrolling addiction, increasingly less human interaction and F2F relationships, the meaningless superficial online relationships where "like" is replaced by "likes" and the costs – financial and well-being

Performance and delivery

- B: Perhaps the most striking thing about it is Marshall Jone's performance.
C: Slam poetry is meant to be performed, not simply read, and it is through the performance that the audience are engaged.
A: Jones does it very, very well through his voice, his facial expressions (and lack of them), and through his body movements.
B: At times he sounds robotic, with a monotone, unemotional voice, and he moves as if he were a robot.
C: His voice is vibrant and compelling and he delivers the poem as if it were a rap.

Language

- A: But, for us, what makes this poem outstanding is the way he uses language.
B: The way certain lines impact emotionally and leave a lasting impression, e.g. the sadness and loss in:
C: *"I'm holding my daughter over a Skype conference call, while she's crying in the crib in the next room"*
A: and in:
B: *"it's scary. I can't hear the sound of mother nature speaking over all this tweeting"*.
C: The images he creates e.g. of drug-like addiction and shooting up in:
A: "headphone jacks inject in the flesh the way we connect, to disconnect power on, until we are powerless. We might be love drugged."
B: The image of the evolutionary struggle to become the upright homosapiens being dashed as man succumbs & reverts doubling over (a computer), and slipping a disc (vertebrae & computer disc):
C: "we might have missed a step in this evolution. Doubled over, we used to sit in tree tops. So we swung down to stand upright and someone slipped a disc,"
A: The way he plays on words and double meaning e.g. starting with the title itself *Touchscreen* and the frequent references to the sensory meaning of touch, and the tech function of touch.
B: The frequent references to Apple Macintosh - the introduction of the *iPerson* and *iTouch* (used as a verb); the double meaning of the labour cost of harvesting apples and the cost of Apple's iPhone – financial & well-being in
C: *"apple picking has always come at a great cost."*
A: The way he uses repetition to give the poem rhythm e.g. starting with

B: "Doesn't it feel good to touch? Doesn't it feel good to touch?"
 C: And
 A: "No friends: there is an app for that."
 B: "No life: there is an app for that."
 C: "You're a complete loser: there is an app for that."
 A: And
 B: "money can buy love for \$9.95 a month."
 C: Click: to proceed the checkout.
 A: Click: to x out where our hearts once were.
 B: Click: I've uploaded this hug, I hope she gets it.
 C: Click: I'm making love to my wife, I hope she's logged in.
 A: Click: I'm holding my daughter over a Skype conference call, while she's crying in the crib in the next room.
 B: Click: So when my phone goes off in my hip,
 C: iTouch and iTouch and iTouch and iTouch and iTouch,
 A: We could go on but the point has been made, so now ...

Relatability

B: We want to talk about its impact on us, and what it made us think.
 C: We all have smartphones. Two of us have iPhones, the other has a Samsung.
 A: The poem resonated for me. It made me think.
 I have my phone with me wherever I go, and I suffer from Nomophobia (the panic of losing my phone).
 I use apps for everything. They are so useful. I've learned more from YouTube video tutorials than anything I learned at school.
 And I'm addicted to scrolling. I also text a lot. And I listen to music a lot. I also listen to podcasts but I don't often use my phone as a phone
 And, I don't do Facebook, or and I certainly don't "like" anything or anyone. It's just silly. I prefer 5 real friends not 500 digital friends. It's just a way of Facebook promoting and tracking usage.
 And I don't do Twitter or TikTok because Twitter is divisive and encourages polarisation. And Tik Tok seems to promote disinformation, not just misinformation. The world would be a lot better if you had to own what you post i.e. it has to have your real name
 B: ...
 C: ...



Appendix 6 Reactions to *Touchscreen*

Categorise the comments under 5 or 6 headings

1. Never before have I been so offended by something I 100% agree with [@lunaequinox7333](#)
2. iPod, iPhone, ipad, iChat I can do all these without using eye contact omg best line [@kevingonzalez-james6421](#)
3. The ironic part is that this is online [@yeastperson7665](#)
4. I had to watch this for homework and ended up playing it over and over again, this gives me goosebumps [@valeriee6369](#)
5. The eye contact line was incredible! [@kitkat3106](#)
6. I saw this in class and everyone said it was stupid and laughed but I lowkey love spoken words and was really feeling this dude so much I liked him up to watch it again [@autumnnelson1809](#)
7. The thing is, I would never have been made to think so critically about my digital world without having experienced this poem by way of the very digital world of YouTube. [@GideonBurton](#)
8. I just scrolled through the comments until I realized that I was watching this video on a touchscreen device. [@JonathanBontragerWaite](#)
9. funny that it mentions following him on Facebook at the end.. [@magno2365](#)
10. This poem sparked my interest in slam poetry but also inspired me to start an open mic poetry club at my high school. It will also be the first poem I recite at the first meeting! [@blakelabathe2404](#)
11. amazing how so many people are missing the point of this poem. 10 years ago texting while driving was not a Hazzard now it's a common tradegy. The moral of the story people is not to give up technology but to wear it as a loose "garment". Use technology for what it's worth but do not get so caught up in it the you trade your life, relationships, and other's for it. [@spiritualcosmeticss](#)
12. "Apple picking has always come at a great cost" Wow [@ahrisbrumfield8392](#)
13. This is amazing. It really makes us rethink how we live our lives. I applaud you, Marshall Davis Jones. [@rachini2000](#)
14. "it used to be hard to connect with friends formed Cliques, but it's even more difficult to connect now that clicks form friends" BRILLIANT!!! [@Elisheval](#)
15. This is relatable because so many people are stuck in their devices and they consume our lives instead of talking to people face to face, or doing "normal" activities. [@daughterofthewyld](#)
16. From the garden to the Eden to the branches of Macintosh, apple picking has always come at a great cost... [@TheCrunchyGum](#)
17.

iPhone 7 - No Headphone Jack	iPhone 8 - No Screen	iPhone 9 - No phone
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[@Magnezium7](#)
18. This guy is talking about how touchscreens turn us in to living robots, yet I'm watching this on my iPad while commenting this very second. Strange [@helenpham2268](#)
19. his mind is in the right place but the world has evolved so much from what it used to be, so much in fact it would be pretty much impossible in this day and age to live without technology. we use it for practically everything, from something as complex as warfare to something so simple as to just lighting up a room. we have become so reliant on technology that now we wouldn't ever be able to survive without it. [@cameronkelly6738](#)
20. am I the only person on this world that hates touchscreens? [@magicmonkeyking4137](#)

Possible categories

- a) Reactions to it & possibly for or against
- b) Actions as a result of watching it
- c) The (lasting) impression it made on me
- d) Memorable lines
- e) Irony

Appendix 7 Examples of slam poetry

“The Type” by Sarah Kay

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYAiYMlOC14>



THE TYPE explores themes of self-worth, identity, and the empowerment of women. Addressed to women, it is both a celebration and a gentle reminder of their intrinsic value, independent of their relationships with others.



“When a Boy Tells You He Loves You” by Edwin Bodney.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq1l-19pwS4>



WHEN A BOY TELLS YOU HE LOVES YOU explores the complexities of love, longing, and vulnerability from the perspective of someone who experiences their first encounter with love and heartbreak.



“Lost Voices” by Darius Simpson and Scout Bostley.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpPASWlnZIA>



"LOST VOICES" is a powerful slam poem that addresses themes of privilege, oppression, empathy, and identity. The poem is unique in its structure: the two poets speak each other's truths rather than their own, swapping narratives to highlight the intersections and differences in their experiences as a Black man and a white woman.



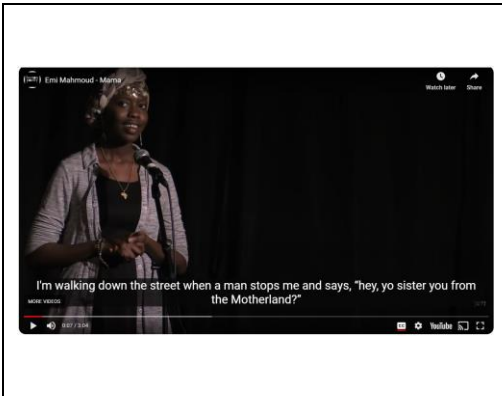
“The Drug Dealer’s Daughter” by Sierra Freeman.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsTUP-uUmns>

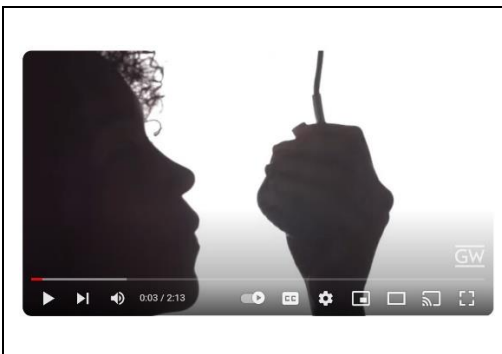


“THE DRUG DEALER’S DAUGHTER” by Sierra Freeman explores the emotional and psychological impact of growing up as the child of a drug dealer. The poem provides a raw and intimate portrayal of a complex family dynamic, where love, survival, shame, and resilience coexist in tension.

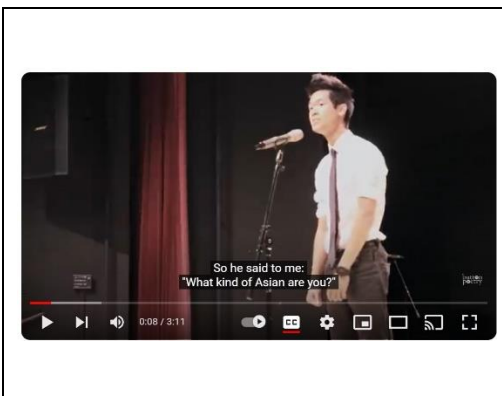




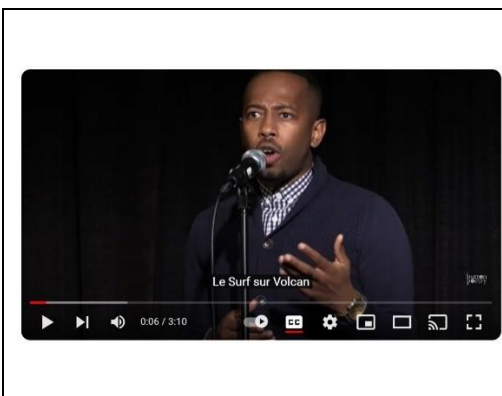
MAMA by Emi Mahmoud explores the complexities of mother-daughter relationships, particularly the expectations and pressures placed on women of colour. Mahmoud's raw and honest delivery tackles issues of identity, self-worth, and the search for belonging.



HAIR by Elizabeth Acevedo celebrates the beauty and significance of Black hair, while also addressing the societal expectations and stereotypes associated with it. The poem is a powerful affirmation of self-love and acceptance.



WHAT KIND OF ASIAN ARE YOU by Alex Dang explores the complexities of Asian identity in the Western world, challenging stereotypes and celebrating the diversity within the Asian diaspora. The poem is a humorous and insightful look at the pressures of fitting into a single cultural box.



ADRENALINE RUSH by Rudy Francisco is a high-energy exploration of the human experience, touching on themes of love, loss, and the search for meaning. The poem's fast-paced delivery and energetic performance style keep the audience engaged and captivated.

