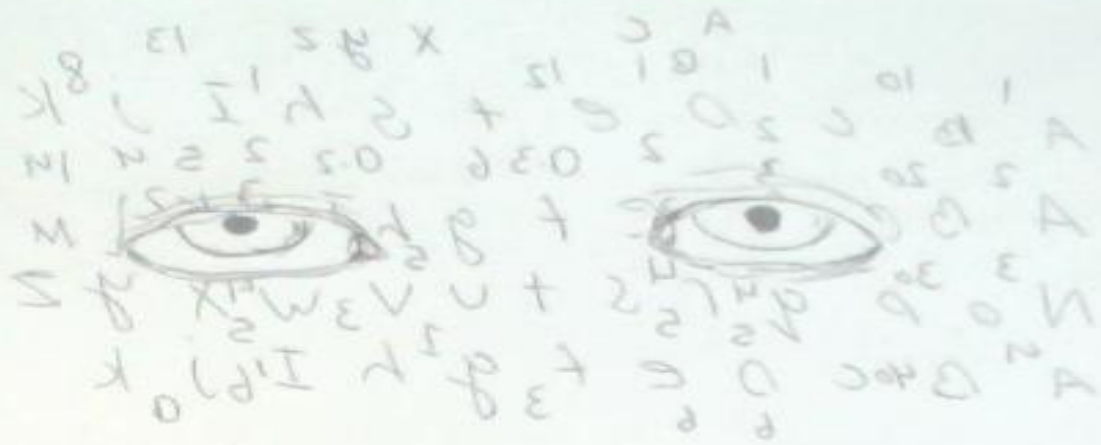


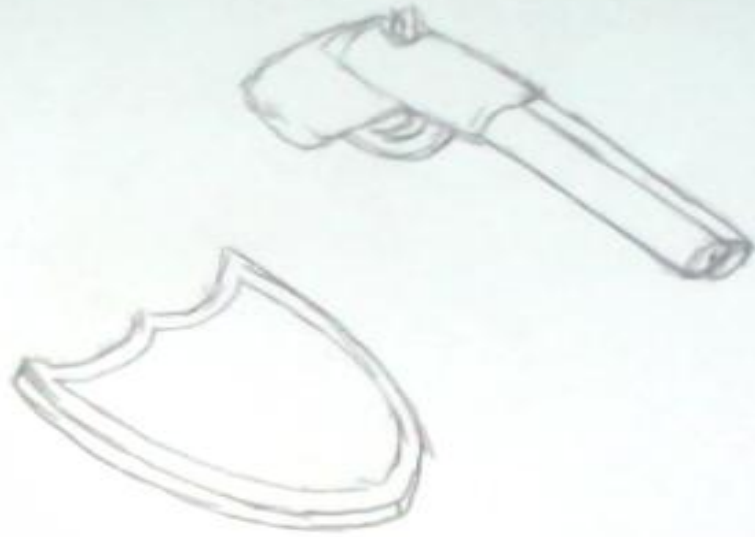


The Myth  
of  
Cultural Literacy

by: Xavier Carroll



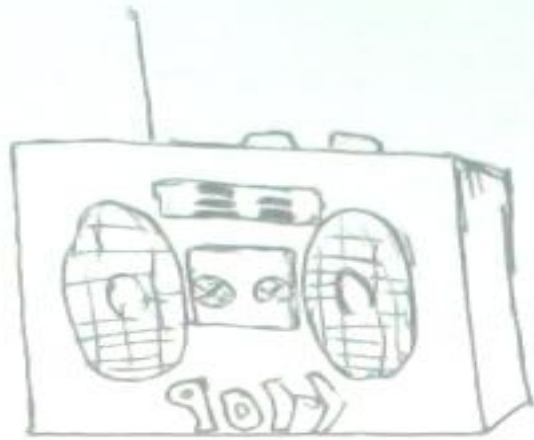
*Cultural literacy the ability to understand and participate fluently in a given culture.*



Two people have a two different opinions on gun restriction. They were both raised in the same country around within five years of each other. One see them as a defensive tool and the other a weapon. why is that? Because they have different cultural experiences with guns.



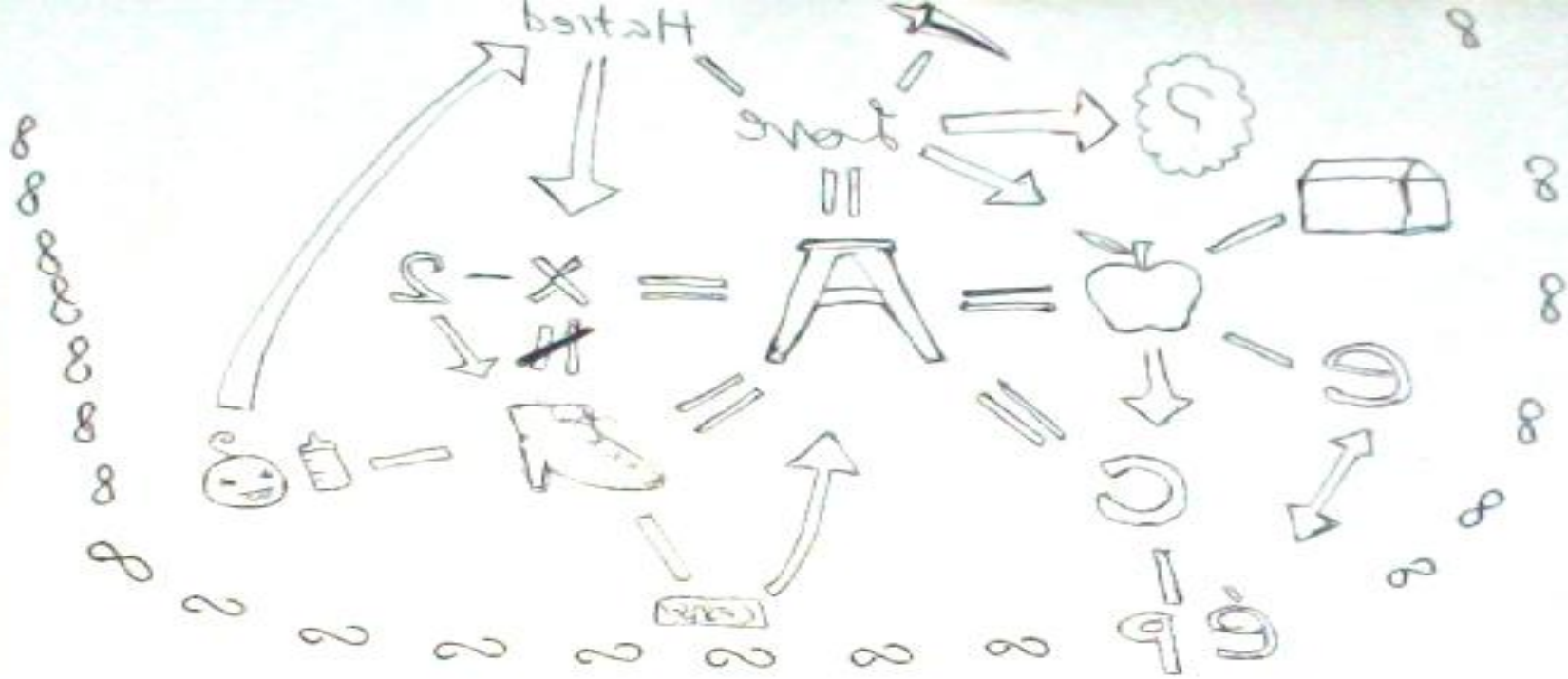
Culture grows like a tumor. From one culture another one grows. Technically they are still connected but they express very different ideas.



Like dance, each subculture is founded in its own philosophy. Like ballet and hip hop sometimes these philosophies are diametrically opposed. This makes a superficial understanding achievable but to fully understand these philosophies one must commit to them



One might say that commitment isn't necessary for understanding but the great Chinese philosopher Confucius would disagree. In *The Analects*, the sacred text of Confucianism, he says that without life long commitment learning is impossible.



Culture is too vast and ever expanding to grasp in its entirety. To put it mathematically, there are just too many variables. This doesn't mean that we should turn inward and deny ourselves culture in all of its forms.

I purpose that we embrace this unknow. There is so much culture can provide for us.