2017 ‘Why Humanities?’ Finalist: Us

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Us

Rima Asfour

Why
the humanities?
Do you hear yourself,
repeat.
Hum-an-ities
Hu-man-ity.
Humanity.
Us.
Without our
political science
we would be left
back in history,
and without our
history,
we wouldn’t know who
the heroes were.
Without our heroes we wouldn’t know
a thing
about English literature
where writers wrote
about
chivalry and bravery
and
loyalty.
Without our humanities
we’d be
lost
because we wouldn’t know
the different theories
on life
and why we exist,
or if we really do.
Because
even though
science
explains
that a child’s birth starts in the womb,
religion states that even though that is true,
It is God that gives life, He says “Be” and it is.

Humanities
let’s us
be
readers, and writers, and storytellers, and psychologists,
historians, professors,
believers
in something bigger that exists.
Without the humanities
we
wouldn’t be able to reason why
what’s happening around the world
is
not
humanity.
With all our theories and
theses,
we would come to the conclusion
that
humanities
let's us be human
by teaching us the etiquettes of war, in the Just War Doctrine, with no revenge in mind, just peace.
The humanities
let's us be human
by teaching emotion through art,
from Kandinsky all the way to Kahlo.
The humanities
let's us try
to understand
the world in which we live.
So,
why
the humanities?
Do you hear yourself,
repeat.
Hum-an-ities
Hu-man-ity.
Humanity.
Us.