

STEM Intersections

Exploring self narration and shared experiences



Garrett Massey



Hello!

I am **Garrett Massey** (he/him)

- Rural roots
- Technical Communications at New Mexico Tech
- Programmer, web developer
- Heavy arts background
- Gaymer, coffee addict, pianist



Key Takeaways

1

Language is limited

2

**STEM intersects
with almost
everything**

3

**The intersections
of identities can
either be isolating
or empowering**

*The limits of my language means
the limits of my world.*

- Ludwig Wittgenstein



“



The Limitations of Language

- All languages are finite.
- Culture, education, language, and identity impact your ability to understand and be understood.
- Language evolves, sometimes too quickly, sometimes not quickly enough.



Overcoming Linguistic Limitations

- Actively seek out and embrace communication techniques not used by your community.
- Seek out commonalities in different communities, they will always exist.
- Celebrate the successes you have in sharing your experiences in your language.

... the literature student has learned to inquire, to question, to interpret, to express [...] the computer major, by contrast, is a technician - a plumber clutching a single, albeit shining, box of tools.

-Julie Schumacher



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STEM Intersections: what we think

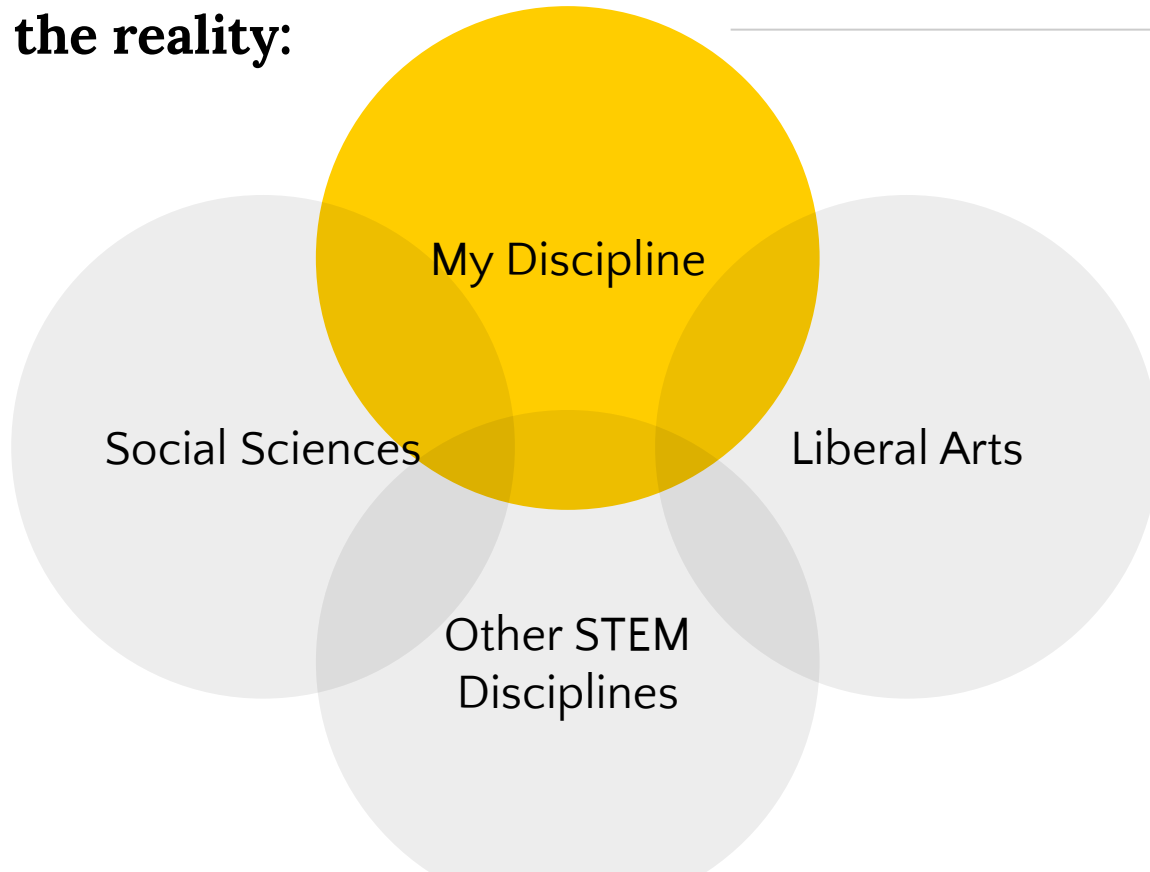
Social Sciences

My Discipline

Liberal Arts



vs. the reality:





STEM Intersections

- ◉ STEM draws influence from arts, social science, culture, and humanities
- ◉ Even if you can't find a connection, we have the shared human experience to draw on.
- ◉ Music and Physics share concepts, but if you can't connect with those, connect with your common love of music.

*There's no such thing as a
single-issue struggle, because we
do not live single-issue lives.*

- Audre Lorde



“



Intersecting Identities

Strengths

The intersection of LGBTQ+ people with STEM means we can

- Share STEM education with others
- Share LGBTQ+ experiences in STEM
- Expand the LGBTQ community into new spaces
- Help make existing spaces more educated and safe.

Weaknesses

STEM and LGBTQ+ groups are both minority groups with representation.

- STEM is often misunderstood and misrepresented
- LGBTQ people are constantly fighting for equality and protection
- The intersections of these identities can be difficult at times

This is why we have oSTEM!



Thanks!

Any **questions** ?

You can find me at

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