

*Jane*

*Transcript of visual culture jam performance*

[hands out one sheet of paper per student]

Ok, so we're going to do a little experiment to see what words mean to you and how they're a little bit different when someone else reads them.

So what does the word "awhile" mean to you? Like how would you use that in your language?

What does it mean to you? When you're doing something in "awhile" what does that mean?

(gives time for people to write)

What does the word "filling" mean to you?

(time)

When I drink this cup of water, what do you say? Just write whatever you would say.

(time)

And then the last word, you've probably never used it before, but what does it mean when I say "fress." F-R-E-S-S.

(time)

So how about you just find somebody else in the room and just switch and compare what you wrote with somebody else.

(people pair up and start exchanging answers)

So are you seeing a lot of similarities, differences?

--It's mostly the same, there are some differences (Jonathan).

EXPLANATION:

Ok, so I never realized I spoke differently than some people until I came to Penn State because I grew up in York County and it's a very Pennsylvania Dutch area and when I'm with

my grandparents who are basically my second parents and I spend all my time with them, I talk really ridiculously like you wouldn't recognize the way I speak. I say hamburg; I say fress; I cut the endings off of everything. It's just really strange.

The first word was "awhile." So when I say I'm going to do this "awhile," it means I'm doing it now. It doesn't mean I'm doing it in a little, I'm doing it now. And I've gotten in lots of trouble with this freshman year of college because I'd text people "Hey I'm gonna go do this awhile," and I'd go and they'd be waiting for me and they'd be like "Where are you?" "Oh, I already went."

And then, what was my second word...filling. So (walks toward her picture and points to the plate of food) this is filling. It's not stuffing, it's not dressing, it's filling. It comes in the filing ball, kind of gross looking, but I love it. –So that's the name of the food? Yeah. You know at Thanksgiving? It's not stuffing, it's filling. –What is it made of? It's just like stuffing, but it's kind of more like people have little chunks of bread that's loose, this is like together. But it's delicious, and I eat it at my grandparent's house.

And my next word was with the cup what do you say. So this actually comes from German and I didn't realize that until I was in German class but in Germany you know something is all gone, in Germany you say "all," so we say "all" where we live. So my drink's "all." You know this is "all," that's "all." People get confused and think I'm not finishing what I'm saying.

The last word also has to do with food. It's "fress." So if you're eating an animal in German it's "fressen." So if you're eating like a pig in the house or "You're fressing that down. You're fressing." That's what we say. –Wait, wait. Say that again. You're fressing. –Does that mean you're eating or you eating a pig? In German, "essen" is to eat and if it's an animal, they're

“fressen,” “fressen” is the verb. So if you’re eating like a pig you’re fressing. –So it’s like you’re stuffing your face. Yeah, Yeah. –Oh I thought it meant you were eating a pig. No, no. It’s not that you’re eating a pig, it’s you’re eating like a pig. –Oooohhh.

So basically I just say weird things and the image here, I explained it earlier, but my grandparents will find any excuse to feed me. Basically, I’ve grown up at this table eating anything they’re thrown at me, and I’d say my Pennsylvania Dutch culture is just really strong through all the foods and my connections with my grandparents.