

# Festival of Dangerous Ideas 11-15 March

Thomas Jefferson wrote in August 1813 that “the moment [an idea] is divulged, it forces itself into the possession of every one”. In this spirit, we will be exploring ideas that you may never have encountered or considered before. We want to generate critical thought, discussion and new ideas that are yet to change the world.

**Task:** In pairs (or individually) explore an idea from literature (ideally from your inquiry novel - start with why your novel was banned or challenged) and consider how the idea started, the progression of its development, and its impact on the world. You will use contextual evidence to situate your idea and represent it visually. You will not only be fully explaining the idea, but also ultimately assessing whether it is, in fact, dangerous.

For the purpose of this festival a **dangerous idea is an idea that promotes or prevents change.**

## Components:

1. Frame the idea: pick a **quote** that best articulates the idea by thinker/inventor/creator of the idea (this is your title).
2. **Origins** of the idea (historical context before).
3. **Spread** of the idea (historical context during) - including obstacles, reactions to the idea.
4. **Significance** of the idea (historical context after...possibly to the present).
5. Assessment of the **extent to which it is a dangerous idea**, and in which ways.

## You will hand in:

- your outline
- your research notes
- a physical project
- a digital entry

## Physical projects may take the following forms:

- **3-dimensional projects and displays:** these projects could include models, posters, maps and original artistic displays.
- **Performance:** these projects could include music, drama or dance. They will need to be recorded as well as a live performance.
- **Multimedia displays:** these projects could include electronic projects such as videos or websites.

## Digital entry to be included on [dssfodi.weebly.com](http://dssfodi.weebly.com):

- 125-150 word summary of what the idea is and in what ways it is considered dangerous
- corresponding photograph/image
- Digital entry to be emailed to/shared with [mbonardelli@deltalearns.ca](mailto:mbonardelli@deltalearns.ca)

## Deadlines:

- Outline is due on **15 February** – hand in to Ms. Bonardelli
- Physical and digital content and research notes must be submitted by **1 March**
- On display (in the library/online): **11-15 March**
- Open house: **12 March 5:30pm** (to coincide with the Pacer Pops Music Showcase). All family and friends are invited to attend!

## What is an idea?

At its most basic definition, an idea is a thought or suggestion as a possible course of action. Kant suggests that they may be realized or not. Locke defines them as being important not just for what they *are* but also for what they *do*. Ultimately the capacity to create and understand ideas is considered to be an essential and defining feature of human beings.

New and original ideas lead to **innovation**.  
 A **concept** is a theory based on an idea.  
 Inter-related ideas, beliefs and values form the basis of an **ideology**.

Some possible ideas (but you are encouraged to use your own brainstorms!)

Innovation	Concept	Ideology
paper the printing press ratings system book prizes libraries the novel graphic novel encryption grammar the essay the novel science fiction personal computer blogs editorial cartooning digital newspapers digital publishing	censorship authenticity dystopia memoir genre pseudonym writing poetry satire intellectual freedom privacy reconciliation violence reading speaking body image journalism education literacy free speech race gender sexuality	heroism feminism nationalism orwellianism anti-colonialism communism secularism pacifism plagiarism democracy

**\*\*You need to propose/register your idea with Ms Bonardelli by 8 February so you can develop your outline by 15 February\*\***

For information on last year's FODI and where we will update this year's FODI visit:  
[dssfodi.weebly.com](http://dssfodi.weebly.com)