English 2015: Poetry Workshop
Writing Exercise: "Of Violins and Violence"
Wednesday, September 7, 2016

With deference to Rowan Ricardo Phillips poem "Violins" from the September 2016 issue of *Poetry*, come up with two words that have a similar initial sound in the way that "violins" and "violence" do in Phillips's poem, e.g. "doubt"/"double," "grief"/"grease," "failure"/"fall," "autumn"/"austerity," etc. These words can rhyme, but they don't have to. Which one of these words is more compelling to you? Which one produces an *image*? (*PG* pg. 295–296) Title your poem this word.

For 7–10 minutes, free write a poem about any subject. Your only parameter is that you must use both of these words in the first stanza, in the same way that Phillips does: "He never saw a violin / But he saw a lifetime of violence."

Note: Also check out Hannah Sanghee Parks's poem "And a Lie."

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For an extra challenge, you may also use homonyms—words that sound the same but are spelled differently—e.g. "rime"/"rhyme," "sensor"/"censor," etc.