

1) Complete the gaps in this full text of Neil deGrasse Tyson's speech before the panel: The Secular Society and Its Enemies, USA, NY in 2007. Web link: <https://youtu.be/azH49eq9rcg>

2) Discuss about the words in green highlight.

system – scientist – been – presuming – prevented – order  
dominated – paradigms – astrophysics – fences – exploitation

I've never been female, but I have \_\_\_\_\_ black my whole life. And, so let me perhaps offer some insight from that perspective, because there are many similar social issues related to access to equal opportunity that we find in the black community as well as in the community of women, in a white male \_\_\_\_\_ society. And I'll be brief, 'cause I wanna hear, try and get more questions.

When I look at, throughout my life – I've known that I wanted to do \_\_\_\_\_ since I was nine years old on a first visit to the Hayden Planetarium. A little younger than Victor, at the time, although he did it before I did. And, so, I got to see how the world around me reacted to my expression of these ambitions. And all I can say is, the fact that I wanted to be a \_\_\_\_\_, an astrophysicist, was, **hands down**, the path of most resistance through the forces of nature, the forces of society. Any time I expressed this interest, teachers would say, "Don't you want to be an athlete?"

I wanted to become something that was outside of the \_\_\_\_\_ of expectation of the people in power. So, fortunately, my **depth of interest** was so deep, and so fuel-enriched, that every one of these **curveballs** that I was thrown and \_\_\_\_\_ that were built in front of me and hills that I had to climb, I'd just reach for more fuel and I kept going.

Now here I am, one, I think, of the most visible scientists in the land and I want to look behind me and say, "Where are the others who might have been this?" And they're not there. And I wonder, what is the blood on the tracks that I happened to survive that others did not simply because the forces of society had \_\_\_\_\_ at every turn? At every turn!

To the point where I have security guards follow me as I go through department stores \_\_\_\_\_ that I am a thief? I walked out of a store one time and the alarm went off and so they came running to me. I walked through the gate at the same time a white male walked through the gate. And that guy just walked off with the stolen goods, knowing that they would stop me and not him. That's an interesting sort of \_\_\_\_\_ of this. What a scam that was! I think people should do that more often. [I'm shopping with you, Neil]

So, my life experience tells me that when you don't find blacks in the sciences and you don't find women in the sciences, I know that these forces are real and I had to survive them in \_\_\_\_\_ to get where I am today. So before we start talking about genetic differences, you've got to come up with a \_\_\_\_\_ where there's equal opportunity. Then we can have that conversation.