Bean Bag Plane

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Title: Bean Bag Plane

Genre: Material Culture

Informant: Jordan is in his last semester as an undergrad student at Utah State University. He works at a restaurant and has been for several years. He is a very sarcastic person but comes into clutch when you need him. I know Jordan from his roommate Jarrett who went to high school with me. Jordan likes eating Mexican food and Panda Express and enjoys making fun of people.

Context: Jordan is sitting on a bean bag in his living room. He just got back from studying and had also just ate some food in the kitchen. He was reluctant at first to make an airplane, but eventually caved in and made one. Jordan taught himself how to make paper airplanes originally, and later was taught different strategies but has since forgotten them.

Text: Jordan used a piece of 11 x 8.5 graph paper that had holes and plastic reinforcements on one side.
Texture: Jordan was laying down on his stomach on a bean bag, using the floor as his table. When asked who taught him how to make a paper airplane, he said “not really anyone, I’m just kind of making it up as I go along.” But he admitted that one year in elementary school they learned how to make them during recess one year. He said he taught his four-year-old niece how to make a paper airplane and stated that she is pro now. His friends that were in the room were having a conversation about emails in the background, interrupting a few times. He explained that there is this one kind of airplane where you just roll it up and send it flying. He put his two pointer fingers together, with them pointing towards his torso, and flicked his fingers outwards indicating what will happen if he had an airplane. Hunter, his friend in the room, said that he too has seen them and that they were “pretty cool”. Jordan then sat up from the bean bag in which we were both sitting on and threw it across the room, making about 5 feet in front of him saying “fheewwww…” (airplane sounds.) He sat back down and so concluded his airplane making.