



@Causeway_Edu

Before we get started.....

Please check that you have a copy of: **Skills for humanities Student Booklet.**

Skills for humanities subjects

Year 11



Session objectives

By the end of the session you will be able to:

- 1 Apply the six thinking hats technique when examining a topic
- 2 Identify what information you need to examine a topic and where to find reliable sources of information
- 3 Extract both the benefits and weaknesses from your sources of information
- 4 Summarise your ideas and come to a clear conclusion



Session overview

- 1 | Starter: your feelings and first reactions to a topic
- 2 | Where do you go to find the facts on a topic?
- 3 | Exploring the positive aspects and strengths of a topic
- 4 | Exploring the negative aspects or weaknesses in a topic
- 5 | Exploring alternative and creative ideas
- 6 | How do you summarise your thinking and come to a conclusion?



About us



Ed Hill
Programme Officer

A Levels
English lit, Film Studies, History, Maths,
Environmental Studies (AS)



University of York
BA History

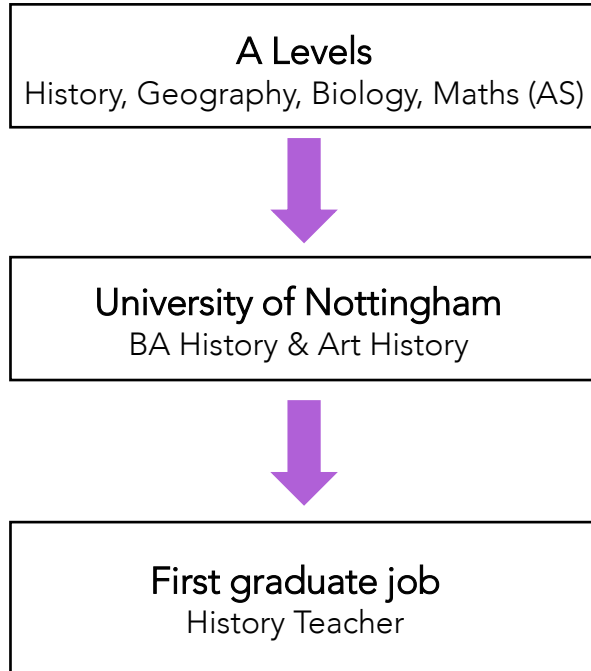


First graduate job
WP Graduate Ambassador





About us



Katie Buckingham
Head of Programmes



1. Starter

Feelings and first reactions



What are your initial feelings about the issues in these stories?

Task:

1. Below and in your booklet you will find links to a few different examples of cancel culture.
2. Choose one or two to read.
3. Whilst you are reading think about what your initial thoughts and reactions are to these examples of cancel culture.

[Brands targeted by cancel culture](#)

[JK Rowling on Twitter](#)

[How getting 'canceled' can actually prolong a YouTuber's career](#)

[Trump is victim of 'cancel culture'?](#)

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Which of these opinions best reflects your own feelings?

1. Cancel culture is meant to give a voice to those with less privilege.

3. A group of over 100 writers and academics including J.K. Rowling and Noam Chomsky, argued, in a letter published in Harper's magazine, that cancel culture had created an "intolerant climate" and had weakened "norms of open debate".

2. In 2019 Former US President Barack Obama said cancel culture was "not activism".
"If all you're doing is casting stones, you're probably not going to get that far," he said.
He added that he got the sense some young people felt being as "judgmental as possible" was the best way to force change and cautioned them that the world was "messy" and full of "ambiguities".

4. "Cancellers" say that using social media to call attention to actions you don't agree with, is the only way to create consequences for those who have more power in society. That power can come in the form of money or influence.



Structure for examining a topic

Lateral Thinking is for creating ideas.

The Six Thinking Hats are for exploring, developing and implementing them.



2. Information available & needed

Where do you go for the facts, data and evidence?



White Hat
information available &
needed, facts and data



Which of these sources do you get your information from?





Task: Go to the links on page 2 of your booklet, which will take you to these sources

Think about or discuss:

- Which sources do you think would be most reliable?
- Which sources do you think would be least reliable?
- Why?

- What do you think about Wikipedia as a source of information?
- How about newspapers or the BBC?
- And what about Twitter posts or YouTube videos?

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Facts, data, evidence

Task:

- Now pause this video and spend some time finding your own sources of information (facts, data, evidence) about one or two examples or stories of cancel culture.
- You will use these examples throughout the rest of this session.

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3. What are the benefits, value & positive aspects?



Yellow Hat
benefits, value &
positive aspects

In what ways could I agree with cancel culture?

Gina Carano fired from The Mandalorian after 'abhorrent' social media posts

Lucasfilm has 'no plans' to work with the actor again on the Disney+ Star Wars series after she appeared to compare the treatment of Republicans in the US to that of Jews in Nazi Germany

Gina Carano will not be returning to the Disney+ television series The Mandalorian, after Lucasfilm announced there were “no plans” for the actor to come back after her “abhorrent and unacceptable” posts on social media. The former mixed-martial-arts fighter and star of the films *Deadpool* and *Haywire* appeared to compare the treatment of Republicans in America to that of Jewish people in Nazi Germany.

There should be consequences for people who say “abhorrent and unacceptable” things online.

In what ways could I agree with cancel culture?

Carano had previously been at the centre of social media controversy, when she was accused of mocking people who state their preferred pronouns online, by placing the words “beep/bop/boop” on her Twitter profile, and had shared conspiracy theories in November about the result of the 2020 US presidential election. Carano also previously ridiculed the wearing of masks to protect against Covid-19.

Sharing conspiracy theories and “misinformation” during an election or a pandemic can be dangerous, particularly if it is coming from somebody in the public eye who lots of people follow, look up to and listen to.



In what ways could I agree with cancel culture?

In a statement, Lucasfilm said: “Gina Carano is not currently employed by Lucasfilm and there are no plans for her to be in the future. Nevertheless, her social media posts denigrating people based on their cultural and religious identities are abhorrent and unacceptable.”

“Social media posts denigrating people based on their cultural and religious identities are abhorrent and unacceptable.”

Go to page 4 in your booklet.

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4. What are the weaknesses or negative aspects?



Black Hat

caution, difficulties,
risks & weaknesses

In what ways could I disagree with cancel culture?

Rowling, Rushdie and Atwood warn against 'intolerance' in open letter

Harper's letter asserts way to 'defeat bad ideas is by exposure, argument, and persuasion', but critics accuse authors of censorious mentality

JK Rowling, Salman Rushdie and Margaret Atwood are among the signatories to a controversial open letter warning that the spread of "censoriousness" is leading to "an intolerance of opposing views" and "a vogue for public shaming and ostracism".

Rowling, whose beliefs on transgender rights have recently seen scores of Harry Potter fans distance themselves from her, said she was "proud to sign this letter in defence of a foundational principle of a liberal society: open debate and freedom of thought and speech".

Cancel culture is leading to an "intolerance of opposing views" and a "vogue for public shaming and ostracism".

Cancel culture goes against a foundational principle of a liberal society. We should be allowed to have open debate and freedom of thought and speech.

In what ways could I disagree with cancel culture?

Hitting out at how a “panicked damage control” is leading to the delivery of “hasty and disproportionate punishments instead of considered reforms”, the letter criticises how “editors are fired for running controversial pieces; books are withdrawn for alleged inauthenticity; journalists are barred from writing on certain topics; professors are investigated for quoting works of literature in class; a researcher is fired for circulating a peer-reviewed academic study; and the heads of organisations are ousted for what are sometimes just clumsy mistakes”.

Cancel culture leads to “hasty and disproportionate punishments.”



In what ways could I disagree with cancel culture?



The letter ends with the writers asserting that “the way to defeat bad ideas is by exposure, argument, and persuasion, not by trying to silence or wish them away”.

“The way to defeat bad ideas is by exposure, argument, and persuasion, not by trying to silence or wish them away.”

Go to page 5 in your booklet.

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5. Alternative & creative ideas



Green Hat

alternatives & creative
ideas



What's the alternative to cancel culture?

A public apology

Prosecution

Unconscious bias training

?????

?????

What do you think of these alternatives?

Can you think of any other alternatives?

6. Coming to a conclusion



Blue Hat
managing the thinking,
focus, summary



Making a judgement and coming to your own conclusion

Your task:

Write a blog or a script for a vlog about your own opinion on the topic of cancel culture.



Making a judgement and coming to your own conclusion

Argument

- Every essay needs an argument which is set out in the introduction and developed in the discussion.
- You need to show the ability to think about how far i.e. to what extent, your claims can be applied.

Structure

- clearly connected paragraphs
- first sentence needs to "signpost" what the main idea or proposition is

Questions/statements can be challenged by:

- interrogating the main terms
- discussing further implications

What is a “compelling argument”?

Q: Does it matter if some plant and animal species die out?

Which of the two following arguments do you think is more “compelling”?

A. This essay will argue that it does matter if plants and animal species are keystone species but that all species cannot reasonably be preserved as extinction is a part of evolutionary processes.

B. I will argue that all plant and animal species should be saved no matter what the cost. All species are part of an intricate web of life; it is our human duty to act as stewards for our natural world.

A balanced argument

- actively examines counter-arguments
- does not take a single perspective, but instead considers the limitations to both sides

A persuasive argument:

- avoids exaggerated or overly assertive language
- examines claims in detail and provides compelling evidence
- makes important qualifications or amendments to broad assertions





Making a judgement and coming to your own conclusion

Make your case for or against cancel culture

Points for (Pros)

(consider the limitations, drawing on reasons, facts and/or examples where possible)

Points against (Cons)

(consider the limitations, drawing on reasons, facts and/or examples where possible)

Conclude with **reasonable** statement which includes exceptions



Example:

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Cancel culture is dangerous as a weapon of the media

Points for (Pros)

- *It doesn't leave room for growth and mistakes. We are all learning.*
- *But what is the impact of that challenge? – People gain notoriety or support after cancelation.*
- *It has become a media tool to focus on individuals instead of addressing underlying equality issues.*

Points against (Cons)

- *However, with influential/powerful people there must be a space to challenge them - they can't go on unchecked (social media power).*
- *But it is bringing awareness to issues and discrimination that have often been ignored by those in power*

Conclude with **reasonable** statement which includes exceptions



Making a judgement and coming to your own conclusion

Your task:

Write a blog or a script for a vlog about your own opinion on the topic of cancel culture using the plan you have just made.

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Thank you