

Wow! Impressive! Scholarly!

This AB shows your hard work and your dedication to your college education. Thank you for doing your best! Well done, LJ.

LJ Jones

Ms. Osburn

English 1302.018

November 5, 2020



Annotated Bibliography: Cancel Culture

Bauer, Fred. "Woke Corporate Concentration: Consolidated Power Feeds Cancel Culture." *The American Conservative*, vol. 19, no. 5, 2020, 11+. *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A633887125/OVIC?u=txshracd2557&sid=OVIC&xid=d4802113>. Accessed 5 November 2020.

In Fred Bauer's article, "Woke Corporate Concentration: Consolidated Power Feeds Cancel Culture," the author argues that censorship has been a part of society for a long time. However, it wasn't until recently that the particular act of shunning someone for their wrong-doings gained a name: cancel culture. Next, the author explains that to understand the act of cancel culture, one must first understand the social norms of society. Furthermore, Bauer describes how corporate behemoths play a part in the dynamic powerplay and struggle that cancel culture thrives off of. Then, the author claims that the corporate concentration of power feeds into the cancellation of individuals on the internet. Finally, Bauer argues that by pushing back and reversing some of the concentration of power, the American society can start to unwind the toxic notion of cancel culture.

This article is important as it helps me understand more clearly where the notion of

cancelling an individual or social media presence comes from. This text assists me in my research by giving me a better psychological perspective on how cancel culture thrives in an American economy. I believe that this text will pair nicely with the article from CNN Wire, “Why ‘Cancel Culture’ Doesn’t Always Work,” because they both suggest that the ideology of cancelling someone or something in society can be toxic and isn’t always a good solution to the injustices presented by that person or corporation. I personally thought this article by Bauer was well written, and primarily objective in his stance.

Bauer states, “Pushing back against cancel culture might involve certain normative arguments. . .” The author displays his knowledge of power by suggesting that there must first be an imbalance of society to rebalance. In other words, by going against certain norms in American society, we can start to get rid of the idea of toxic cancel culture by fixing what we consider normal behavior to begin with.

Cross, Pat. “Cancel Culture.” *PatCrossCartoons*, Pat Cross, 25 September 2019,

<https://patcrosscartoons.com/2019/09/25/cancel-culture/>. Accessed 5 November 2020.

This artwork by Pat Cross satirically aligns with how our online, and even offline, society reacts to things we consider unjust. First, in the piece, Cross draws an image of a car. On the back of the car, where the license plate should be is the word comedian. Furthermore, the man sitting in the car looks to be surprised at being stopped on the road. Then, a police officer stands next to the car, and is writing a ticket. Cross draws the officer wearing an LGBTQ+ pride flag, which is there to insinuate that cancel culture comes from the leftist, democratic, socialist mentality. Finally, Cross draws the officer reprimanding the comedian in the car, and underneath the piece, he writes a phrase meant to poke fun at the people online and offline that do the cancelling of others.

I believe this piece of art is essential to my research, as it provides a visual understanding of how some people view the toxic notion of cancel culture. Cross' piece assists me in my research by depicting a psychology behind the minds of others who observe cancel culture and appear to find it unnecessary. I believe this piece will pair nicely with Richard Ebeling's "Save America From Cancel Culture," as both texts insinuate that America is falling prey to the ideology of cancel culture and that it is leading to a more negative outlook on society as a whole.

Through his art, Cross expresses, "You broke the speed limit 5 years ago. That'll be a million dollar fine and a 2 year apology tour." This sarcastic text directly from the art piece makes fun of those who cancel celebrities and other higher powers of society. Usually, those who cancel others demand some sort of penance for the injustices of the person. Examples being that of paying money or apologizing profusely, and sincerely, through videos and public statements.

Ebeling, Richard. "Save America From Cancel Culture." *ProQuest*, Arlington Heights: Newstex,

13 July 2020, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/2423117156?accountid=6444>.

Accessed 5 November 2020.

In Richard Ebeling's text, "Save America From Cancel Culture," the author explains what the idea of cancel culture is and how it affects society. Ebeling describes the elements of the cancel culture mindset, and how the movement leads to societal destruction. The author claims that activists for cancel culture believe that the racist, bigoted, rocky America of the mid-19th centuries is still alive today. The author seems to presume that cancel culture proponents believe that all the injustices of past America are still active, and need to be changed and adjusted. Ebeling begs to differ on the subject, and continues on to explain that American culture is not trapped in the dark ages. He continues with the idea that if America was

un-progressive, it would not have evolved as much as it has today. Finally, Ebeling suggests that the very act of cancel culture would not exist if it weren't for how progressive America is, which is in contrast against what he believes to be the ideology of cancel culture activists.

This text is important to me as it helps me to understand where someone like Ebeling is coming from. This text assists me in my research by conveying a more neutral outlook on the subject of cancel culture. I believe this text was well written, and that it will pair nicely with Michelle McDaniel's YouTube video, "The Toxic World Of Cancel Culture." Seeing as both suggest that America has been driven to a tight edge and that it is up to the personal preferences of an individual to participate in cancel culture or social change.

Ebeling states, "America is not a lie, but an ideal of Liberty in Progress." The author's words suggest that those who would cancel others believe this country to be founded on lies and run by lies. Ebeling argues this is not the case, and sees from the perspective that America is progressing to something greater or worse than it was before.

McDaniels, Michelle. "The Toxic World Of Cancel Culture." *YouTube*, My Thoughts Will Probably Offend You, 23 October 2020, <https://youtu.be/RYHs5wTDeIQ>. Accessed 5 November 2020.

In Michelle McDaniels' YouTube video, "The Toxic World Of Cancel Culture," McDaniels begins by discussing several current YouTube personalities that have been cancelled recently. She then dives deep into what cancel culture is, and how it goes about holding or not holding celebrities accountable for their actions. Next, McDaniels talks about how someone finds an old tweet or post from a celebrity and reposts it to the present day. McDaniels describes how this action often sends the celebrity's fans, and sometimes even the world, into insanity. Then,

McDaniels remarks that she is surprised she hasn't been cancelled yet for something from her past given that she is also a fairly well-known YouTube personality. Lastly, McDaniels talks about how it is ultimately up to the individual to decide whether or not to cancel someone they look up to, and to question their morals depending on the subject.

I think this video by McDaniels is very informative. I believe it helps me with my research giving valuable insight into cancel culture through the eyes of a social media icon herself. I think this video will pair nicely with Richard Ebeling's text, "Save America From Cancel Culture," and CNN Wire's article, "Why 'Cancel Culture' Doesn't Always Work," because all three of these texts go in-depth on what cancel culture is and how it affects not only the people being cancelled, but those doing the cancelling as well.

McDaniels states, "They try to damage control, but the damage is done. They are cancelled." This is in reference to when celebrities are cancelled. What does a celebrity do when a whole slew of fans is at their doorstep with torches and pitchforks? Damage control. However, no amount of damage control is helpful, it seems, when that many people are down someone's throat about what that person has done.

Wire, CNN. "Why 'Cancel Culture' Doesn't Always Work." *Gale In Context: Opposing*

Viewpoints, CNN Newsource Sales, Inc., 21 September 2019,

<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A600285547/OVIC?u=txshracd2557&sid=OVIC&xid=9938d000>. Accessed 5 November 2020.

In CNN Wire's article, "Why 'Cancel Culture' Doesn't Always Work," a CNN associate writer named Leah Asmelash investigates the effectiveness of cancel culture on American society. First, Asmelash presents that some people feel cancelling corporate figures and celebrities, as well as social media influencers, for mistakes denies them the opportunity to learn

and grow. Then, Asmelash decides that, while corporate and celebrity cancellations are generally not permanent, cancel culture usually does succeed in reminding our cultural icons that they may be held accountable for their past, present, and future actions. Similarly, Asmelash explains the question of what exactly cancel culture is and how it affects our society. Next, the associate writer discusses whether or not cancel culture appears to be effective on the subjects being cancelled versus those who are cancelling said subjects. Lastly, Asmelash explains that despite how cancelling someone is supposed to get rid of their unsavory actions forever, it doesn't really work that way. Asmelash concludes that in the end cancel culture doesn't truly matter, however it does let cultural icons know that their fans will hold them accountable for most things.

I believe this text is important as it assists me in understanding what cancel culture is and how it has an effect on our society. This article helps guide me in my research by allowing me to see the viewpoint of someone who has done research on this topic before. I think this article pairs nicely with Richard Ebeling's text, "Save America From Cancel Culture," and Michelle McDaniel's YouTube video, "The Toxic World of Cancel Culture," as both coincide with CNN Wire's associate writer's discoveries about cancel culture.

Asmelash states in her writing, "Some people argue that cancel culture is justified because celebrities are facing repercussions for their actions." This quote suggests that by cancelling someone immediately for their wrongs of the past and present, people are not allowing that person to learn and grow from their mistakes. Fans are simply justifying their cancelling of a public figure as a so-called "time out" for those they look up to. In the end, the celebrity doesn't usually learn from their mistakes and is still likely to repeat them in the future.