UNDERSTANDING THE CANCEL CULTURE OF GEN Z

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Cancel Culture becomes a trending term during this pandemic, particularly started to be used by the Generation Z, those who are born in 1997 to 2012. It means a group of people attacking or blaming someone for saying or doing anything that displeases them. However, the definition broadens from someone to anything, even objects and events that people want to cancel.

One reason why Gen Z, specifically today’s generation of students, are classified as cancel culture because they now see everything in social media. In “Cancel 2020” when the pandemic hit globally, the future becomes uncertain to the point that everyone on earth had to give up everything they enjoyed the most because life changed real quick. For Gen Z, their usual normal is off trend but the use of internet increases and that gave them a new trend. They become busier on different websites because that is the most common way to be in and to gather information. Without limits, they see information that is not helpful to them but stuck there out of curiosity. If they can’t accept the idea of another person or the situation that arises from a certain event, they are quick to disagree, to oppose leading to blaming and attacking. It doesn’t matter to them who is the person they are blaming or attacking to.

Cancel culture results from the opposing perspective of an individual. Before the pandemic, Gen Z always say “no one wants to listen them”, now they have a lot to say online and about online. Life to them become one click. Living virtually creates so much noise. While Gen Z is prone to cancel, they are also vulnerable to getting and being cancelled. They follow the on trend status quo. If they are off trend, other Gen Z will cancel them out. But following the status quo might result to losing their own identity.
and becomes who everyone else does. To some it’s about correcting others, hence the term “Correct Culture” but without hearing other people’s side.

Whether canceling or correcting, the key is for adults to play an important role in guiding Gen Z to understand what they see and hear. Though teachers might not have a huge impact among students today because of the virtual borders, it is important that somehow we talk to our students as a group in which topics are outside the lesson but in a meaningful way so that they’ll learn how to judge right and oppose someone in a less harmful way. In this way, they’ll apply the same to the people in their same and another generation and to always get to the story behind every scene and word first.

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