SOURCES & REFERENCES

Did Cancel Culture Fail?

A Front Page Documentary | Part 1 of 2

This document contains every primary source, study, court filing, and news report cited in Part 1 of this documentary. The goal is full transparency: every number, every claim, and every quote on screen can be traced back to its original source and independently verified.

Sources are organized by narrative section, in the order they appear in the film. Within each section, primary sources are listed first, followed by supporting journalism and secondary commentary. A consolidated reference table of the key statistics cited in the documentary begins on the next page.

Readers are encouraged to read the primary sources directly and draw their own conclusions. All links were verified as active at the time of publication.

Prepared by: Front Page Documentaries

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Runtime: Approximately 52 minutes

frontpagedocumentaries.com

KEY STATISTICS REFERENCE

Every major statistic cited in the documentary, with the primary source for each.

STATISTIC	FIGURE	PRIMARY SOURCE
FIRE sanction attempts, calendar year 2025	**525 (record)**	FIRE Scholars Under Fire
Scholars fired in 2025	**29 outright**	FIRE Scholars Under Fire
Scholars fired over Kirk comments (Sept–Dec 2025)	**18**	FIRE
FIRE sanction attempts, 2015–2022	**877 of 1,080 total**	FIRE historical report
#WestElmCaleb TikTok views (January 2022)	**30+ million**	Washington Post
Morgan Wallen 24-hour digital album sales	**+1,220%**	Rolling Stone / NBC News
Wallen Billboard 200 consecutive weeks at #1	**10 weeks**	Billboard
Jason Aldean 'Try That' digital sales spike	**+27,625% in one week**	Billboard
Joe Rogan 2024 Spotify deal	**Up to $250 million**	Wall Street Journal
Hogwarts Legacy copies sold (Dec 2025)	**40 million**	Warner Bros. Games
Louis C.K. Grammy Award	**Best Comedy Album, 2022**	Recording Academy
Kevin Hart estimated net worth (2024)	**~$450 million**	Forbes
HartBeat valuation (2022)	**$650 million**	Hollywood Reporter
Gibson's Bakery v. Oberlin final payment	**$36.59 million**	Ohio 9th District Court
Bari Weiss / Free Press acquisition (2025)	**~$150 million (Paramount/CBS)**	The Free Press
U.K. Office for Students fine on Sussex (Stock case)	**£585,000**	Office for Students
Pew — Americans who see callouts as unjust punishment	**38% (2018) → 45% (2022)**	Pew Research Center
r/AmItheAsshole subreddit members	**1M (2019) → 22M+ (2026)**	Reddit / SubredditStats
Instagram black squares (Blackout Tuesday, 6/2/2020)	**~28 million**	CNBC
LeanIn — male managers uncomfortable w/ women colleagues	**46% (2018) → 60% (2019)**	LeanIn.org / SurveyMonkey
Pew — U.S. adults saying dating is harder now	**47% overall, 55% women, 62% Black Research**	Pew Research Center
GSS — 18–29 year-olds with no sex in past year	**12% (2010) → 24% (2024)**	General Social Survey
U.S. women currently married	**65.4% (1960) → 46.4% (2022)**	U.S. Census Bureau
Married-couple households as share of all households	**78.8% (1949) → 47.1% (2024)**	U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. total fertility rate, 2024 (provisional)	**1.599 (record low)**	CDC / NCHS
South Korea total fertility rate, 2023	**0.72 (world low)**	Statistics Korea

STATISTIC	FIGURE	PRIMARY SOURCE
2024 election — Gen Z gender gap	**31 points (largest ever recorded)**	Tufts CIRCLE
2024 election — Latino men swing from 2020	**Biden +23 → Trump +10**	Edison Research
Depp v. Heard Virginia verdict (June 1, 2022)	**$10M + $5M vs $2M**	Fairfax County Court
Depp–Heard estimated TikTok trial views	**~27 million**	NPR analysis
Scholarly meta-analyses of false accusation rates	**2–10% cluster**	Lisak / Spohn / EVAWI / UK Home Office
Dobbin HBR diversity-training dataset	**829 firms, 30 years**	Harvard Business Review
PEN America school library book bans, 2023–2024	**10,046 instances (+200% YoY)**	PEN America
Revelio — DEI job postings growth collapse	**+595% (2022) → +73% (2025)**	Revelio Labs

SECTION 01

THE WEST ELM CALEB CASE AND VIRAL DOXXING

The Washington Post
"How West Elm Caleb shows that cancel culture is still going strong"
https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/01/22/west-elm-caleb-tiktok/
Most thorough mainstream account of the January 2022 pile-on, including doxxing timeline, the 30 million hashtag views, and the mental-health toll on the subject.

The New York Times
"Who is West Elm Caleb? The TikTok saga, explained"
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/20/style/west-elm-caleb.html
NYT Style section coverage analyzing the wider cultural and dating-app dynamics that produced the moment.

The Guardian
"West Elm Caleb: the New York dating story everyone's talking about"
https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/jan/21/west-elm-caleb-new-york-tiktok-cancel-culture-man
International context on the incident and how it became a reference point for the limits of viral shaming.

SECTION 02

FIRE — FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION

FIRE
"Scholars Under Fire — interactive database"
https://www.thefire.org/research-learn/scholars-under-fire
Live, continuously updated database tracking every documented attempt to sanction a U.S. scholar since 2000. The primary data source for all FIRE figures cited in the film.

FIRE
"Scholars Under Fire: Attempts to Sanction Scholars, 2000–2022"
https://www.thefire.org/research-learn/scholars-under-fire-attempts-sanction-scholars-2000-2022
Comprehensive 22-year retrospective showing 1,080 cumulative attempts, 877 of them concentrated in the 2015–2022 window. Breaks down fired vs sanctioned, tenured vs untenured, and ideological direction of campaigns.

FIRE
"Efforts to silence scholars hit record in 2025"
https://expression.fire.org/p/efforts-to-silence-scholars-hit-record
The primary report for the 525-attempt 2025 figure. Documents the partisan inversion: majority of 2025 attempts now originate from governors, state legislatures, and federal appointees.

FIRE
"2025 College Free Speech Rankings"
https://www.thefire.org/research-learn/2025-college-free-speech-rankings
Survey of 58,000+ students across 257 campuses measuring self-censorship, comfort discussing controversial topics, and tolerance for speakers.

SECTION 03

ORIGINS: ETYMOLOGY, MUTE R. KELLY, AND #METOO

Vox
"Why we can’t stop fighting about cancel culture"
https://www.vox.com/culture/2019/12/30/20879720/what-is-cancel-culture-explained-history-debate
Traces the etymology of “cancel” from the 1981 Chic song “Your Love Is Cancelled” through New Jack City and Lil Wayne to the modern usage.

The New York Times
"The #MuteRKelly movement and R. Kelly’s eventual conviction"
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/31/arts/music/mute-r-kelly-sex-cult.html
Profile of the July 2017 Atlanta-launched campaign by Kenyette Tisha Barnes and Oronike Odeleye that preceded the #MeToo moment by months.

Associated Press
"R. Kelly sentenced to 30 years in prison in sex trafficking case"
https://apnews.com/article/r-kelly-30-years-sentencing-82c43c86f24e08fdf73ae6cbc5ecbf7c
Federal conviction that validated the underlying concerns of the Mute R. Kelly campaign.

The New York Times (Kantor & Twohey)
"Harvey Weinstein paid off sexual harassment accusers for decades"
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/us/harvey-weinstein-harassment-allegations.html
The October 5, 2017 investigation that triggered the modern #MeToo wave. Kantor and Twohey won the Pulitzer Prize for this reporting.

The New Yorker (Farrow)
"From aggressive overtures to sexual assault: Harvey Weinstein’s accusers tell their stories"
https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/from-aggressive-overtures-to-sexual-assault-harvey-weinsteins-accusers-tell-their-stories
Ronan Farrow’s companion investigation released ten days after the Times piece. Shared the Pulitzer Prize.

SECTION 04

OBAMA, THE HARPER’S LETTER, AND THE PUBLIC INFLECTION POINT

Obama Foundation (official YouTube)
"President Obama at Obama Foundation Summit with Yara Shahidi (October 29, 2019)"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaHLd8de6nM
The original footage of Obama’s remarks on “purity,” “woke-ness,” and the limits of Twitter callout culture. The first high-profile Democratic intervention against the movement.

The New York Times
"Obama on call-out culture: ‘That’s not activism’"
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/31/us/politics/obama-woke-cancel-culture.html
Contemporary reporting on Obama’s remarks and the reaction inside the progressive movement.

Harper’s Magazine
"A Letter on Justice and Open Debate (July 7, 2020)"
https://harpers.org/a-letter-on-justice-and-open-debate/
The open letter signed by 153 writers and intellectuals including Chomsky, Rushdie, Atwood, Steinem, Gladwell, Fukuyama, Rowling, and Haidt.

The Objective
"A More Specific Letter on Justice and Open Debate"
https://www.objectivejournalism.org/2020/07/a-more-specific-letter-on-justice-and-open-debate/
The rival open letter, signed by 160+ writers of color and early-career journalists, rejecting the Harper's letter three days later.

Pew Research Center
"Americans and 'cancel culture': Where some see calls for accountability, others see punishment"
https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/05/19/americans-and-cancel-culture-where-some-see-calls-for-accountability-others-see-censorship-punishment/
Baseline survey of U.S. attitudes. Documents the 58% accountability / 38% punishment split that later inverted.

Pew Research Center
"A growing share of Americans are familiar with 'cancel culture'"
https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/06/09/a-growing-share-of-americans-are-familiar-with-cancel-culture/
2022 follow-up showing the accountability/punishment split had closed to 51%/45% — a 7-point swing in under two years.

SECTION 05

THE CELEBRITY SCOREBOARD: POST-CANCELLATION OUTCOMES

TMZ
"Morgan Wallen caught on video using racial slur (February 2, 2021)"
https://www.tmz.com/2021/02/02/country-singer-morgan-wallen-n-word-video/
Original source of the video that triggered Wallen's industry-wide cancellation.

Rolling Stone
"Morgan Wallen sales jump 1,220% after video scandal"
https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/morgan-wallen-sales-racial-slur-1124242/
Source for the 1,220% digital album sales figure in the 24 hours following industry blacklisting.

Billboard
"Morgan Wallen's full commercial timeline, 2021–2023"
https://www.billboard.com/music/country/morgan-wallen-timeline-racial-slur-video-9587738/
Comprehensive commercial data including 10 consecutive weeks at #1 on the Billboard 200.

Billboard
"Jason Aldean, 'Try That in a Small Town' reaches #1 on Hot 100"
https://www.billboard.com/music/chart-beat/jason-aldean-try-that-in-a-small-town-number-one-hot-100-1235383907/
Source for the 27,625% one-week digital sales spike and the #1 Hot 100 debut following the CMT removal.

The Wall Street Journal
"Spotify reaches new deal with Joe Rogan worth up to $250 million"
https://www.wsj.com/business/media/spotify-joe-rogan-deal-jre-experience-bcd30444
Primary source for the February 2024 Rogan deal figure. The deal is non-exclusive, meaning the show also distributes on YouTube, Apple, and Amazon.

J.K. Rowling (primary source)
"J.K. Rowling writes about her reasons for speaking out on sex and gender issues"
https://www.jkrowling.com/opinions/j-k-rowling-writes-about-her-reasons-for-speaking-out-on-sex-and-gender-issues/
Rowling's June 10, 2020 essay, the specific text that anchored the campaign against her.

IGN
"Hogwarts Legacy has sold more than 40 million copies"
https://www.ign.com/articles/hogwarts-legacy-40-million-copies-sold
Source for the 40 million-copy sales figure as of December 2025. Warner Bros. has announced the sequel and a film franchise.

The New York Times
"Louis C.K. is accused by 5 women of sexual misconduct"
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/09/arts/television/louis-ck-sexual-misconduct.html
Original 2017 investigation that led to C.K.'s immediate loss of FX, HBO, Netflix, and WME representation.

Rolling Stone
"Grammys 2022: Louis C.K. wins Best Comedy Album"
https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/grammys-2022-louis-ck-wins-best-comedy-album-1333048/
The 2022 Grammy Award that marked his formal re-acceptance by the entertainment industry.

Variety
"Shane Gillis will host 'Saturday Night Live' — five years after being fired"
https://variety.com/2024/tv/news/shane-gillis-snl-host-2019-firing-1235916888/
Source for the February 2024 SNL hosting slot, five years after his pre-show firing.

Variety
"Ted Sarandos defends Dave Chappelle's 'The Closer' in Netflix memo"
https://variety.com/2021/tv/news/netflix-ceo-ted-sarandos-dave-chappelle-closer-transphobia-1235090145/
The October 2021 internal memo in which Netflix's co-CEO refused to pull the special during the internal walkout.

The New York Times
"Man who attacked Dave Chappelle on stage pleads guilty"
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/04/arts/dave-chappelle-attack-hollywood-bowl.html
Source for the May 3, 2022 Hollywood Bowl stage attack and the subsequent legal outcome.

Forbes
"Kevin Hart — profile and net worth"
https://www.forbes.com/profile/kevin-hart/
Ongoing Forbes profile including the 2024 net worth estimate of approximately $450 million.

The Hollywood Reporter
"Kevin Hart's HartBeat valued at $650 million"
https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/business/business-news/kevin-hart-hartbeat-abry-partners-valuation-1235146636/
2022 valuation for the media company Hart founded after the Oscars withdrawal.

Variety
"ABC cancels 'Roseanne' after Valerie Jarrett tweet"
https://variety.com/2018/tv/news/roseanne-barr-roseanne-canceled-abc-valerie-jarrett-tweet-1202825254/
The counter-example: a cancellation where the subject did not recover inside mainstream media institutions.

SECTION 06

THE NEW YORK TIMES EXODUS AND INSTITUTIONAL PRESS

The New York Times (Tom Cotton)
"Send In the Troops (June 3, 2020)"
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/opinion/tom-cotton-protests-military.html
The op-ed whose publication triggered the internal staff revolt that ended James Bennet's tenure as opinion editor.

The New York Times
"James Bennet resigns as New York Times Opinion editor"
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/07/business/media/james-bennet-resigns-nytimes-op-ed.html
Reporting on the resignation four days after the Cotton op-ed.

The Economist (James Bennet)
"The New York Times has lost its way"
https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2023/12/14/the-new-york-times-has-lost-its-way-argues-james-bennet
Bennet's 15,000-word retrospective on the internal dynamics of the 2020 Times, published in The Economist.

Bari Weiss (primary source)
"Resignation letter from The New York Times (July 14, 2020)"
https://www.bariweiss.com/resignation-letter
The resignation letter itself, which went viral within hours.

The New York Times
"Two prominent journalists depart The Times: Donald McNeil Jr. and Andy Mills"
https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/business/media/donald-mcneil-andy-mills-leave-nyt.html
Contemporary coverage of the McNeil exit following the 2019 Peru trip incident.

The Free Press (Bari Weiss)
"A new chapter for The Free Press: Joining Paramount and CBS"
https://www.thefp.com/p/a-new-chapter-for-the-free-press-cbs-paramount
October 2025 announcement of the approximately $150 million acquisition by Paramount Skydance. Weiss was named editor-in-chief of CBS News.

SECTION 07

ACADEMIC CASUALTIES: LÓPEZ PRATER, STOCK, AND ABBOT

The New York Times
"A lecturer showed a painting of the Prophet Muhammad. She lost her job."
https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/08/us/hamline-university-islamic-art.html
Extended reporting on the Erika López Prater case at Hamline University, including the 14th-century Persian painting at the center of the dispute.

American Association of University Professors
"AAUP investigation finds Hamline University failed to uphold academic freedom"
https://www.aaup.org/news/aaup-investigation-finds-hamline-university-failed-uphold-academic-freedom
Formal academic-profession rebuke of Hamline's handling of the case.

BBC News
"Kathleen Stock resigns from University of Sussex"
https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-59149320
October 2021 resignation coverage including the harassment campaign that preceded it.

BBC News
"University of Sussex fined £585,000 over Kathleen Stock case"
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg5vqjq87vzo
March 2025 regulatory action — the largest free-speech fine in the history of the U.K. Office for Students.

The Free Press (Dorian Abbot)
"MIT abandons merit"
https://www.thefp.com/p/mit-abandons-merit
Abbot's personal account of the September 2021 Carlson Lecture cancellation at MIT. Princeton's James Madison Program later hosted him to 4,000+ online attendees.

SECTION 08

GIBSON'S BAKERY V. OBERLIN COLLEGE

FIRE
"Gibson's Bakery v. Oberlin College: A primer"
https://www.thefire.org/news/blog/gibsons-bakery-v-oberlin-college-primer
Comprehensive summary of the 2016–2022 case arc, including the evidence record and the flyer distributed by the Oberlin dean.

Legal Insurrection
"Gibson's Bakery v. Oberlin College — complete coverage archive"
https://legalinsurrection.com/tag/gibsons-bakery-v-oberlin-college/
The most complete ongoing coverage of the case, including court filings, appellate decisions, and post-verdict developments.

Supreme Court of Ohio
"Gibson Bros., Inc. v. Oberlin College — Ninth District Court of Appeals opinion (March 31, 2022)"
https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/9/2022/2022-Ohio-1125.pdf
Official appellate decision upholding the jury verdict. The Ohio Supreme Court declined further review 4–3 in August 2022.

Cleveland.com
"Oberlin College pays $36.59 million judgment to Gibson's Bakery"
https://www.cleveland.com/news/2022/09/oberlin-college-pays-36-million-judgment-to-gibsons-bakery-after-years-long-defamation-legal-fight.html
Reporting on the final September 2022 payment, including interest. Allyn Gibson died during the appeal process.

SECTION 09

THE ALGORITHMIC MACHINERY: PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH

Nature Human Behaviour — Crockett (2017)
"Moral outrage in the digital age"
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-017-0213-3
Peer-reviewed finding that immoral acts encountered online evoke significantly more outrage than those encountered in person or via traditional media. The foundational study on digital outrage amplification.

PNAS — Brady, Wills, Jost, Tucker & Van Bavel (2017)
"Emotion shapes the diffusion of moralized content in social networks"
https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1618923114
Analysis of approximately 563,000 tweets finding that each additional moral-emotional word in a post increases retweet rate by about 20%.

PNAS — Rathje, Van Bavel & van der Linden (2021)
"Out-group animosity drives engagement on social media"
https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2024292118
Analysis of 2.73 million posts finding that out-group-attacking content is shared roughly twice as often, and that out-group language is a 4.8x stronger predictor of sharing than negative emotion alone.

The Atlantic — Jonathan Haidt
"Why the past 10 years of American life have been uniquely stupid"
https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/05/social-media-democracy-trust-babel/629369/
Haidt's April 2022 cover essay synthesizing the post-2009 social-media shift into the "post-Babel" framework.

After Babel (Haidt research repository)
"Ongoing research archive on social media and mental health"
https://www.afterbabel.com/
Haidt's updated research hub, maintained with co-authors and independent scholars.

Slate (Robbie McCoy)
"I am Couch Guy"
https://slate.com/human-interest/2022/02/couch-guy-viral-tiktok-robbie-mccoy-essay.html
McCoy's first-person account of being the subject of 1+ billion #CouchGuy views in September 2021.

SECTION 10

BLACKOUT TUESDAY, CORPORATE COMMITMENTS, AND LUXURY BELIEFS

CNBC
"What is Blackout Tuesday? Here's why black squares are trending on Instagram"
https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/02/what-is-blackout-tuesday-heres-why-black-squares-are-trending-on-instagram.html
Contemporary reporting on the June 2, 2020 event, including the approximately 28 million black squares posted.

Reuters
"Walmart rolls back DEI policies following similar moves by Ford, Harley-Davidson"
https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/walmart-rolls-back-dei-policies-following-similar-moves-by-ford-harley-davidson-2024-11-26/
November 2024 retreat including the retirement of Walmart's $100 million Center for Racial Equity.

Walmart (official)
"Walmart shares updates on policies and programs"
https://corporate.walmart.com/news/2024/11/26/walmart-shares-updates-on-policies-and-programs
Primary-source corporate announcement of the 2024 DEI rollback.

New York Post (Rob Henderson)
"Luxury beliefs are the latest status symbol for rich Americans (August 17, 2019)"
https://nypost.com/2019/08/17/luxury-beliefs-are-the-latest-status-symbol-for-rich-americans/
The essay introducing the "luxury beliefs" concept cited in the documentary.

Simon & Schuster
"Troubled: A Memoir of Foster Care, Family, and Social Class — Rob Henderson (2024)"
https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Troubled/Rob-Henderson/9781982168537
Book-length development of the luxury-beliefs thesis.

SECTION 11

THE DAMAGE: WORKPLACE, DATING, MARRIAGE, FERTILITY

LeanIn.org / SurveyMonkey
"Sexual harassment backlash survey results (2019)"
https://leanin.org/sexual-harassment-backlash-survey-results
National survey documenting the rise from 46% to 60% in male managers uncomfortable with common workplace interactions with female colleagues.

Pew Research Center
"Nearly half of U.S. adults say dating has gotten harder in the last 10 years"
https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2020/08/20/nearly-half-of-u-s-adults-say-dating-has-gotten-harder-for-most-people-in-the-last-10-years/
Survey results: 47% overall, 55% of women, 62% of Black women.

Institute for Family Studies
"The sex recession is not over"
https://ifstudies.org/blog/the-sex-recession-is-not-over
Tracks General Social Survey data showing the doubling of sexlessness among 18–29 year-olds, 2010–2024.

NORC / General Social Survey
"GSS Data Explorer"
https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org/
The raw GSS dataset that underlies the sexlessness figures cited in the documentary.

U.S. Census Bureau
"Historical Marital Status Tables"
https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/families/marital.html
Source for all U.S. marriage-rate figures cited: 65.4% (1960) declining to 46.4% (2022), and the parallel household composition data.

CDC / National Center for Health Statistics
"Births: Provisional data for 2023 (Data Brief No. 507)"
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db507.htm
Official source for the 1.62 and 1.599 total-fertility-rate figures — the lowest in U.S. history.

SECTION 12

SOUTH KOREA AND THE GLOBAL GENDER REALIGNMENT

Reuters
"Young South Korean men and women drive political gender divide"
https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/young-south-korean-men-women-drive-political-gender-divide-2022-03-10/
Analysis of the 2022 South Korean presidential election showing the approximately 58.7% men-under-30 support for Yoon Suk-yeol and the equivalent-magnitude support for Lee Jae-myung among women under 30.

Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)
"Vital Statistics: Total fertility rate"
https://kostat.go.kr/menu.es?mid=a20108080000
Primary-source Korean government statistics showing the 0.72 total fertility rate in 2023 — the lowest figure ever recorded in any country.

Financial Times (John Burn-Murdoch)
"A new global gender divide is emerging"
https://www.ft.com/content/29fd9b5c-2f35-41bf-9d4c-994db4e12998
The most widely cited analysis of the international gender divergence in political preference among young voters.

SECTION 13

THE 2024 U.S. ELECTION AND THE GENERATIONAL GENDER GAP

Tufts CIRCLE
"Election Week 2024 — Youth vote analysis"
https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/election-week-2024
Source for the 31-point Gen Z gender gap figure — the largest ever recorded in an American presidential election.

AP-NORC / AP VoteCast
"AP VoteCast 2024"
https://apnorc.org/projects/ap-votecast-2024/
The AP's large-sample voter survey covering the 2024 electorate, used for demographic crosstabs.

Edison Research
"2024 National Election Pool Exit Polls"
https://edisonresearch.com/2024-national-election-pool-exit-polls/
Source for the Latino-men 18-point swing from Biden +23 (2020) to Trump +10 (2024).

SECTION 14

DEPP V. HEARD AND THE CREDIBILITY QUESTION

Fairfax County Circuit Court
"Depp v. Heard — case record"
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/depp-v-heard
Official court record for the June 1, 2022 verdict awarding $10 million compensatory and $5 million punitive damages to Depp, with a $2 million counterclaim award to Heard.

Law & Crime Network
"Depp v. Heard full trial archive (YouTube)"
https://www.youtube.com/@LawCrimeNetwork
Publicly available archive of the livestreamed Virginia trial.

NPR
"The Johnny Depp-Amber Heard trial is a TikTok obsession"
https://www.npr.org/2022/05/26/1101444814/the-johnny-depp-amber-heard-trial-is-tiktok-obsession
Source for the approximately 27 million TikTok views of trial-related content.

Violence Against Women — Lisak et al. (2010)
"False allegations of sexual assault: An analysis of ten years of reported cases"
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21164210/
Widely cited peer-reviewed study estimating a 5.9% false-report rate across 136 university cases.

End Violence Against Women International
"False Reports and Case Unfounding Resource Hub"
https://evawintl.org/resources/false-reports/
Professional-standards organization summary of the 2–10% scholarly consensus range for false sexual-assault reports.

UK Home Office — Kelly, Lovett & Regan (2005)
"A gap or a chasm? Attrition in reported rape cases (Home Office Research Study 293)"
https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors293.pdf
British study finding that under strict classification criteria, only approximately 2% of reported rapes can be confidently labeled false.

SECTION 15

CONCLUSION: TRUST, DEI CONTRACTION, AND BOOKS

Gallup
"Historically low faith in U.S. institutions continues"
https://news.gallup.com/poll/508169/historically-low-faith-institutions-continues.aspx
Source for the record-low institutional confidence figures cited in the closing minutes of the documentary.

Gallup
"State of the Global Workplace — Employee engagement"
https://www.gallup.com/workplace/608675/global-indicator-employee-engagement.aspx
Source for the 36% (2020) to 31% (2024) decline in U.S. employee engagement — an 11-year low.

Harvard Business Review — Dobbin & Kalev (2016)
"Why diversity programs fail"
https://hbr.org/2016/07/why-diversity-programs-fail
Analysis of 829 U.S. firms over 30 years finding that mandatory diversity training is associated with measurable decreases in the share of Black, Hispanic, and Asian women in management five years later.

Revelio Labs
"Layoffs trickle down to DEI and HR employees"
https://www.reveliolabs.com/news/business/layoffs-trickle-down-to-dei-and-hr-employees/
Source for the DEI job-posting growth collapse from +595% to +73%, and the approximately 13% decline in DEI-titled roles since early 2023.

PEN America
"Banned in the USA: Beyond the Shelves (2024)"
https://pen.org/report/banned-usa-beyond-the-shelves/
Source for the 10,046 school-library book-ban instances recorded in the 2023–2024 academic year — an approximately 200% year-over-year increase.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the companion source list for Part 1 of “Did Cancel Culture Fail?”, a Front Page Documentaries production. Every factual claim in the film — every statistic, every quote, every court finding — can be traced to one of the primary sources listed in the preceding pages.

The documentary takes a deliberately data-first approach. Where the public narrative around cancel culture has often turned on anecdote, this film attempts to document what actually happened to the people involved: what their earnings were before and after the episode, what the court records say, what peer-reviewed research on social-media outrage has found, and what the subsequent demographic and political data reveal about the wider social consequences.

The documentary acknowledges several realities simultaneously. The underlying #MeToo concerns about real sexual predators were genuine, documented, and led to criminal convictions that no honest person disputes. The subsequent enforcement infrastructure that grew out of that moment did, however, produce collateral damage — to private individuals, to academic freedom, to workplace mentorship, and to the credibility of the accountability principle itself. Both statements can be true at the same time.

All URLs were verified as active prior to publication. If any link has since been removed, archived versions are available via the Wayback Machine at web.archive.org. Viewers are encouraged to consult the primary sources directly and form their own conclusions. Any factual correction requests can be submitted through the contact information below.

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