

2014 Catholic Junior College JC2 Preliminary Examinations

Paper 2 Answer Scheme

Q1. In Paragraph 1, why is negativity like indulging in junk food' (line 3)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

a	<i>What the phrase suggests</i> "giving in to negativity is easy ,	It is effortless to enjoy / tempting to engage in negative attitudes	1
b	<i>Contextual understanding</i> yet this indulgence is difficult to shake off "	<u>but</u> deeply habit-forming/ challenging to change /resist/disengage from these habits , which may prove harmful/addictive	1

Q2. Explain why the author describes negative and suspicious attitudes as a 'filter' (line 43). [2]

a	<i>Meaning of word</i> "Because negative and suspicious attitudes create a filter through which we observe our surroundings ..."	Just as a filter limits/selectively allows /prevents/obstructs something from coming through, (1m) Note: Must capture the idea of 'limiting'. <u>Do not accept</u> inaccurate/skewed/clouds/reduces visibility/biased	1
b	<i>Applying to context</i> ... when we are in this state, we tend to miss out on life's joys ."	in the same way / likewise , negative and suspicious attitudes prevent one from being satisfied/happy /enjoying the pleasures in life/finding delight in life. (1m) <i>Answers must draw parallels between correct characteristic of 'filter' and corresponding characteristic of negative attitudes (i.e. 'limiting')</i>	1

Q3. Explain the author's use of the word 'caricature' (line 46) in Paragraph 5. [1m]

Contextual understanding of 'caricature' (how this word is used)

<p>"It is easy to distort people and create a caricature of their flaws."</p>	<p>The author uses it to show how negativity increases our tendency to exaggerate/blow out of proportion the shortcomings/failings of others (1m)</p> <p>Accept: amplifies/enlarges/magnifies</p> <p><i>Inaccurate/misrepresentation = 0m (too vague?)</i> <i>Parody = 0m (no meaning of 'distort')</i> <i>Answers should show a contextual understanding of 'caricature', which grossly emphasizes a feature of a person, often to comical proportions.</i></p>	<p>1</p>
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Q4. Using your own words as far as possible, explain how 'our negative attitudes mirror experiences from our past' (line 48)? (3 points = 2 marks, 1-2 points = 1 mark)

<p>a</p>	<p>"The critical attitudes we are exposed to early in life...can shape the way we see people when we grow up."</p>	<p>Incidents/episodes that happened earlier/prior/before/during our childhood moulds/influences/forms/affects the perspective/outlook/the manner in which we view others.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>b</p>	<p>"Events that <u>leave</u> us feeling vulnerable,hurt or angry..."</p>	<p><i>Paraphrase should feature the general sense of "vulnerable, hurt or angry".</i></p> <p><u>Current/present day</u> incidents that <u>cause</u> one to feel exposed/defenceless/weak upset/distressed/aggrieved/disturbed/unhappy furious/resentful</p> <p>encapsulated in words like 'affliction',</p> <p>DNA: 'negative emotions', 'negative feelings', 'bad things' (too vague) hatred (too strong)</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>c</p>	<p>... will often trigger these old, and often negative, reactions."</p>	<p>usually spark/provoke/bring about former/past harmful feelings (original answer was "unfavourable")</p> <p>Accept: rekindle, evoke BOD: recall DNA: remind, invoke</p> <p><i>Tenses matter in this answer, where past influences</i></p>	<p>1</p>

		<i>present (a); and current events which upset us (b) can evoke these past memories (c)</i>	
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Q5. According to Paragraph 6, how do “positive emotions contribute to psychological and physical well-being” (lines 59-60)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1m]

“In other words, our positive feelings actually make us more resilient when facing <u>negative circumstances</u> .” (line 60)	<p>These emotions enable/allow us to be more tenacious/determined to succeed/able to recover more easily from/continue despite adversity/ hardship/hard times /able to withstand adversity / not giving up easily / persevere through hardship / bounce back after tough times / more determined to overcome adversity</p> <p>Should focus on the reactions (effect/reactions) to setbacks</p> <p>DNA: daunted (associated with fear, not ‘resilience’/survival), stronger, brave, deal with, ‘determined’ without understanding of context</p> <p><i>Note: Not looking for the articulation of the specific meaning of ‘resilient’, because we are not asking why did the author use the word ‘resilient’.</i></p>	1
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Q6. What is the author implying by italicising “*not*” in Paragraph 6 (line 62)? [2m]

a	So the question becomes, “why <u>not</u> look for the best in people?”	<p><i>criticism of status quo/current reality</i></p> <p>She is implying that that we currently do not look for the best in people</p>	1
b		<p>but that there is no particular reason why we should not.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>and that we should/suggests <i>to</i> look for the best in people</p> <p><i>Answer must reflect an understanding that the italicisation implies a subtle criticism of status quo.</i></p>	1

Q7. Explain the author's use of the term 'downward spiral' in Paragraph 6 (line 64)? [1m]

<p>"Why make ourselves suffer over the flaws of others? How can we shake off negative, destructive points of view and the critical attitudes that lead us on a downward spiral?"</p> <p><i>Effort to contextualise the 'downward spiral' is necessary. Answer must reflect understanding of getting worse ('downward') and it being a continuous/gradual process ('spiral') to gain the mark.</i></p>	<p><u>Relationship with others</u> She uses it to suggest that by engaging in such critical attitudes, our interactions with people continually/gradually/uncontrollably become worse/worsening/more negative/deteriorate.</p> <p>OR She uses it to suggest that these critical attitudes gradually make us more hostile towards others.</p> <p><u>Self-harm</u> OR (idea of negativity being self-harming) Negative thoughts would torment us increasingly.</p> <p>DNA: vicious circle/cycle as cycle ≠ spiral, snowball effect, domino effect</p>	1
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Q8. Identify and explain two phrases in Paragraph 7 that reflect the consequences of not acknowledging our emotions. [3]

1 phrase - 0m

2 phrases - 1m

1 phrase + 1 explanation - 1m

2 phrases + 1 explanation - 2m

2 phrases + 2 explanations - 3m

Cannot award a/b/c without right identification of phrases

p1	"colour the lens through which we view the world"	a	<p><i>The consequences of not acknowledging our emotions are</i></p> <p>a skewed/distorted perspective/biased mindset</p> <p>Do not accept metaphorical expressions. DNA: 'cloud our vision' as this obscures rather than tint/taint our perspective.</p>	1
p2	"lead us to sabotage our own experiences"	b	<p>a self-defeating attitude/setting oneself up for failure</p>	1
p3	"bubble over with negativity"	c	<p>and pushes us past a tipping point / overwhelms beyond which negativity becomes harmful/destructive/explosive/excessive</p> <p>DNA: accumulation of negativity</p>	1

	DNA: 'slip into a POV that is not our own' as this is a cause of negativity, not a consequence.		
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Q9. According to the author, how does compassion counter negativity (line 81)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

a	<i>"...allowing us to feel our <u>anger</u>, <u>pain</u>, or <u>frustration</u>..."</i>	Compassion counters negativity by giving us the ability to experience /compose/handle destructive/negative/harmful emotions DNA: emotions only	1
b	<i>"...without taking these feelings to a dark place...that bends both us and those close to us out of shape"</i>	without allowing them to consume/overwhelm us distorts our relationships with loved ones such that it could harm us and the people we love	1

Q10. Why does the author use the anecdote in Paragraph 9? [1]

"My friend's biggest regret over her holiday was having acted cold and dismissive towards her husband instead of seeing that he too was hurting. Visiting his family always brought up painful memories of being called 'stupid' and 'forgetful.' She could have expressed her concern without turning against him, and they both could have benefited by talking through their underlying emotions."	<p><i>Any one of the following:</i></p> <p><u>A. Function of Anecdote:</u></p> <p>i) To personalise the arguments; putting a human face to abstract concepts; to make it relatable for the reader</p> <p>OR</p> <p><u>B. Purpose of Use Within An Argument:</u></p> <p>i) To show the need for compassion as an antidote to negativity</p> <p>ii) To illustrate/substantiate her arguments about compassion (as an antidote to negativity)</p> <p>OR</p> <p><u>C. Style of Writing:</u></p> <p>i) To give closure to the argument/piece</p> <p>ii) To echo/repeat/give closure to/sum up the friend's story (since anecdote was used as a point of reference in previous paragraphs)</p> <p><i>Answer requires an understanding of author's intention/style/decision to use the anecdote</i></p> <p>DNA: makes the writing reliable</p>	1
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Q11. Using material from Paragraphs 2 to 4, summarise the reasons for negativity and its effects. Write your summary in no more than **120** words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Negativity arises due to...

a	a defensive posture we take to protect ourselves	adopt an attitude to avoid criticism/ to guard ourselves/ intended to avoid harm/ keep us safe/ shield ourselves from harm
b	triggered when we feel hurt by or angry at something,	activated/initiated by negative moods/feelings/ by feeling annoyed or upset / emotional pain
c	instead of dealing with those emotions directly	rather than engaging these feelings head on/ openly acknowledging/ confronting these feelings
d	allow them to fester	they become more intense through extended neglect/indifference/ let them become poisonous/harmful
e	skew our outlook	distort our perspectives/ perceptions / mindset
f	slowly start to turn on everything	gradually annoyed by all around us / lashing out
g	started as small irritations	began as minor frustrations/impatience/ annoyances
h	grew into a hostile attitude	escalated/ becomes antagonism/ aggression/ an unfriendly outlook
i	grouchy and irritable	short-tempered/grumpy and annoyed/ eager to find fault/take offence
j	indulging in self-righteous attitudes	enjoy/derive satisfaction from being morally superior/ believing we are always correct/ being on moral highground
k	forming expectations that people should behave a certain way	believing in standards for how others ought to act, asking/demanding that people do as we want
l	we start to seek out and focus on the worst in people OR may start seeing only the flaws in everyone OR watching for mistakes	nitpick on/ emphasise/ look for/ concentrate/ zoom in on others' weaknesses/ biggest flaws only aware of failings/imperfections see only people's bad points/weaknesses looking out for/awaiting errors/ blunders / wrongdoings

m	more reactive to anything that did not go as she had planned.	heightened sensitivity/ more sensitive when dealing with change to unexpected problems / more agitated
n	on edge,	tensed/ anxious
p	rather than focusing on the experience	instead of concentrating their involvement/ interaction with others/ appreciating events
q	negativity often surfaces when we direct negative emotions or perceptions we have toward ourselves outward onto those around us. OR the same critical filter through which we see ourselves/the harsh judgment of this inner critic can easily be projected outward onto the people around us	use the same condemning/ disapproving/ dismissive standards to assess those in our social circles, OR negativity appears when we expand our self-criticism to other people
r	pressure she was putting on herself to “be her best” in front of their families	burden of presenting a faultless facade/ need to excel
s	She wanted everything to go perfectly	desire flawlessness/ to be flawless/for there to be no mistakes
t	we are feeling vulnerable /moments when we are feeling open and are let down	helplessness/defenseless/exposed feeling weak/ defenceless
u	we have turned on ourselves	self-sabotage/ criticising ourselves/ focusing on our flaws
v	fail to have compassion for their struggles and distractions .	inability to sympathise/ do not show understanding/ concern for the suffering /misfortune of others, do not sympathise with their problems

Negativity arises due to adopting an attitude intended to avoid harm. It is initiated by feeling annoyed or upset. Rather than confronting these feelings we let them become poisonous so that they distort our perceptions. We become gradually annoyed with everybody and minor annoyances lead to an unfriendly outlook. We become eager to find fault, believe we are always right and demand that people do as we want. In this confusion we look for people's biggest flaws and become more sensitive to unexpected problems. We anxiously wait for errors rather than appreciating events. We often desire to excel without making mistakes but feel weak and criticise ourselves. We expand our self-criticism to others, seeing only weaknesses, and lack sympathy with their problems. 118 words

Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9	10	11-12	13+
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Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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12. In the passage, Lisa Firestone argues that negativity is damaging to ourselves and to others. To what extent do you agree with her observations? Give reasons with reference to you and your society.

Requirements

Candidates should:

1. Explain how issues related to negativity are shared or not shared by their society
2. Support their views with reasoned argument
3. Show some understanding of the ideas in the passages
4. Explain ideas from both passages

Explanation and Text Reference

Candidates should show understanding of and make reference to *some* of the following issues:

1. Negativity is damaging when it is allowed to fester (Para 2), with the direct consequence being that it could negatively skew one's outlook/'colour the lens', sabotage one's experience or be overwhelmed by it (Para 7).
2. Negativity is damaging when we indulge in self-righteous attitudes and form expectations that people should behave a certain way (Para 3).
3. Negativity is damaging when one is made more reactive, one edge and is on the constant watch for mistakes. (Para 3)
4. a. Negativity is damaging because it could cause someone to turn on themselves, critique themselves too harshly.
b. Negativity is damaging because one's unhappiness/displeasure with oneself can easily be projected on to others (Para 4)
5. Negativity is damaging because we indulge in an "us-versus-them" mentality, setting ourselves up in [unnecessary] competition with others. It is damaging because it is only too easy to distort people and exaggerate their shortcomings. (Para 5)
6. Negativity is damaging because it can be contagious. (Para 6) - this point must be linked to other consequences to make sense
7. Negativity is damaging because it causes one to alienate others, act in a hostile manner, or become defensive and isolated. (Para 6)
8. Negativity is damaging because it prevents one from feeling good about themselves and on other things/events (similar to point 1), and prevents one from bringing out the best in others and making the best of the situation. (inferred from Para 9)

Evaluation

Candidates should:

1. Question or show reasons as to why their society subscribes to negativity
2. Give examples of their own and their society's experience in support of their views
3. May put forward original ideas on the causes/effects of negativity
4. Provide insights on Singaporeans' attitudes and practices
5. Develop objective evaluation of the ideas in the passage

Coherence

Candidates should:

1. Adopt a consistent viewpoint

2. Argue logically
3. Organise their answers into cohesive, themed paragraphs
4. Link paragraphs to show continuity and direction of argument
5. Maintain relevance to the task in everything they write
6. End with a summative or concluding paragraph or sentence

Possible Points of Discussion

Arguments from the text	Agree to large extent Ex +Ev) [Why and How]	Agree to a limited extent (Ex + EV) [Why and How]
<p>"... yet this indulgence is difficult to shake off." (Para. 1)</p> <p>Argument about the persisting quality of negativity as damage to self.</p>	<p>Requirements of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Agree</u> that negativity locks itself deep in individuals as indulgence and harms them. - <u>Demonstrate</u> this persistence <u>by showing that even when</u> the initial reasons for negativity have been mitigated/removed - <u>Consider inherent fallacies</u> in this blanket claim, e.g. in failing to consider <i>what</i> shakes off negativity. - <u>Rebuttal</u>: <u>conditions</u> which <i>could</i> shake off negativity tend not to present themselves in Singapore -- this justifies the large extent of agreement. <p>Sample Application to SG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Context</u>: post-2011 elections political discontent that have <i>persisted</i>. - <u>Evidence of negativity in the populace</u>: (1) growing popularity and readership of sites like "The Real Singapore" among one's generation, which report social and political issues in Singapore with a deep seated xenophobia and anti-establishment tendencies -- despite these sites having been discredited by their sloppy reporting, plagiarism, and fear-mongering (2) discourse of discontent on social media by this generation, marked by a recourse to self-victimisation. - <u>Inference for <i>persisting</i> negativity</u>: repetitive and persisting complaints <u>despite</u> concessions made by the ruling party post-2011, e.g. cooling measures for the housing situation, 	<p>Requirements of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Disagree</u> that negativity is an indulgence and/or that it is difficult to shake off. - <u>Demonstrate</u> that there is at times good reason for negativity -- negativity as a logical consequence, as a valid emotional response -- thus that it is not mere <i>indulgence</i>. - AND/OR <u>Demonstrate</u> that negativity does not persist as stubbornly as the author claims. - <u>Rebuttal</u>: concede nonetheless that negativity has the potential to exhibit these traits as claimed by the author, but that close reference to one's generation does not support those claims well. <p>Sample Application to SG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Context</u>: xenophobia as manifestation of negativity towards others (racial/national Other). - <u>Evidence of xenophobia AND counter-xenophobic behaviour</u>: propensity for blame to be attributed to foreigners, cf. headline grabbing incidents e.g. 2012 PRC Ferrari driver who caused a fatal accident (emphasis on nationality); 2013 Little India Riot -- blame placed on the fact of there being foreign workers rather than focusing on the underlying reasons for the riot. Yet one also sees a greater propensity for censuring of such attitudes in mainstream and social media, and in the soul-searching attitude of one's fellow citizens. - <u>Inference</u>: that while negative attitudes towards racial and

	<p>in response to grievances about the high cost of housing (http://www.srx.com.sg/cooling-measures -- should you desire further reading about what constitutes “cooling measures”); pioneer package -- honouring the first generation of Singaporeans, also addressing financial concerns with an ageing population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While one may take issue with the sufficiency of these measures in response to the many areas of discontent raised in the election period, the sludge of negative sentiments that sticks in public discourse despite these measures suggests that these sentiments have shifted from being a direct response to a given set of issues to being mere indulgence in a disposition. - <u>Inference of harm</u>: parochialism. 	<p>national Others exists in Singapore, it is unfair to say that it is merely indulged unthinkingly, since there is growing unease about such bigoted attitudes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Inference of harm</u>: parochialism can be mitigated.
<p>“When we grow negative toward one thing in our lives, we may slowly start to turn on everything.” (Para. 2)</p> <p>Argument about the uncontrolled proliferation of negativity in different parts of one’s life -- damage to self.</p>	<p>Requirements of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Agree</u> that negativity spreads cancerously, blotting the primal incident whence it sprang. - <u>Demonstrate</u> this proliferation by showing the transference of negative attitudes from one issue to another in one’s life or in one’s society, particularly where <u>pre-existing</u> negative attitudes about <u>one</u> issue predispose individuals to be negative about other issues, almost as a default mode of perception. - <u>Infer</u> that one therefore becomes a victim (aspect of self-harm) of negative attitudes, insofar as they cloud one’s judgement. <p>Some points to consider for SG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Coffee-shop Complaining Culture</u>: tendency to misascribe systemic/societal faults to the ruling party, even when it may not be (1) a partisan issue or (2) a government issue or (3) even a public service issue. Specific examples need to be cited. <u>Inference</u>: that negative attitudes are sometimes blindly (mis)applied. 	<p>Requirements of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Disagree</u> that negativity is metastatic. <u>Argue</u> instead that our negativity in Singapore has very specific sources and is contained within these areas. - <u>Discuss</u> key areas in which negative attitudes are frequently evidenced, e.g. in housing woes, cost of living in general, long work hours, stress-drenched environments. - <u>Suggest</u> that outside these areas we are still able to live with a positive attitude. - <u>Infer</u> therefore that even in the face of overwhelming evidence of negativity in Singapore, it would be oversimplistic to assume metastasis. <p>Some points to consider for SG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Stressed but happy</u>: that, despite our highly stressful education system, our students were ranked by OECD in 2014 as the happiest students, in comparison with students from 65 other countries. <u>Possible reasons</u>: include high CCA participation and holistic student development programmes. <u>Inference</u>: that even though negative attitudes about assessment-driven testing may exist among students, this does not affect their positivity in other areas of school life. - <u>Overworked, but happy</u>: that Singaporean teachers, despite

		<p>having about 26% more working hours than the TALIS average (2014), report being satisfied with their job.</p> <p><u>Inference</u>: that even though Singaporean teachers may feel overworked and overburdened, what negativity may be present in certain select aspects of their job does not taint their positive attitude to the rest of their job.</p>
<p>“... we start to seek out and focus on the worst in people ... we direct negative emotions or perceptions we have toward ourselves outward onto those around us.” (Para. 3)</p> <p>cf.</p> <p>“... the harsh judgement of this inner critic can easily be projected outward onto the people around us. We may start seeing only the flaws in everyone ...” (Para. 4)</p> <p>Same argument (from Para. 3, repeated in 4) in two parts: tainted perception of others, one which stems from our own negative attitudes to ourselves --</p>	<p>Requirements of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Argue</u> that observable negative attitudes about others frequently can be traced to similar negative attitudes about oneself. - <u>Demonstrate</u> this hypothesis in different areas of SG society, e.g. education, the economy, politics, healthcare. - <u>Explicitly discuss</u> the harm to self/others. <p>Sample application to SG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High expectations of success drive hypercritical attitudes. Cf. Straits Times editor Warren Fernandez, who claims that Singaporeans have “Everest-high expectations”. This suggests that having high expectations of one’s success in turn drives negative attitudes towards governmental policies. - In the field of education, likewise, the fear of personal inadequacy in a competitive environment may cause students to be less sympathetic towards those who have been left behind in the rat race, cf. the occasional insensitive remark from students from “elite” schools about “neighbourhood” schools or ITE students. 	<p>Requirements of engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Argue</u> that negative attitudes of the self need not necessarily translate to negative attitudes towards others. - <u>Demonstrate</u> that the “harsh judgement of this inner critic” could in fact have positive manifestations. - <u>Rebut</u> what may be a sweeping statement in the passage, suggesting that this “inner critic” need not always be negative, and could in fact simply be the result of holding oneself to high expectations. - <u>Point out</u>, therefore, that harm to self/others is moot. <p>Sample application to SG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the inner critic is manifested in our holding ourselves to high standards of work, of excellence, in taking pride in work, etc. - That this is not mutually exclusive with positive sentiments about work. - That even in the event of negative sentiments, these need not necessarily translate into an outward display of judgement.

damage to self <i>and</i> others.		
<p>“We may start seeing only the flaws in everyone ... and fail to have compassion for their struggles and distractions.” (Para 4)</p> <p>Argument about failure to empathise <i>because</i> of this harsh judgement resultant from negative attitudes to others -- damage to others.</p>	<p>Requirements of Engagement:</p> <p><u>Agree</u> that many are quick to see the flaws first without the willingness to accept that others are also struggling.</p> <p><u>Demonstrate</u> how it is common for individuals to ignore/be indifferent to what is pleasant/likeable, and then are quick to see the faults in people.</p> <p><u>Discuss</u> that this perhaps is human nature. Hypothetical scenario/Thought experiment: an artist splashes a dot on a piece of blank canvas. When observers are asked what is on the piece of paper, all answer ‘a dot’. The artist asks, ‘why does no one state the white space, and notice only the dot?’ This possibly shows that people notice what annoys them more easily as it catches their attention, whereas niceness is expected and is therefore taken for granted.</p> <p><u>Rebuttal</u> (applicable to both agree/disagree segments): Argue for the apathy in today’s youth - that they see neither flaws nor have compassion for others, because they simply do not know enough, or are generally too self-centred to be bothered (beyond some heated claims in a classroom).</p>	<p>Requirements of Engagement</p> <p><u>Disagree</u> that individuals start to see flaws in everyone and do not have compassion for their struggles and distractions.</p> <p><u>Demonstrate</u> that their generation is actually one that pays attention to the story of ‘the other’, and is quick to sympathise different causes, sometimes even disregarding moral values.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> this generation of youth is growing up where the backstories of traditional ‘evil’ fictional characters are given airtime. Sympathetic retellings include Neil Gaiman’s <i>Snow, Glass, Apples</i> where Snow White’s stepmother speaks, Angelina Jolie in Stromberg’s <i>Maleficent</i> based on the Fairy that cast a spell on Sleeping Beauty, and of course the current favourite, Disney’s <i>Frozen</i>, based on the figure of the icy-hearted Snow Queen. (Perhaps even the local e.g. Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress, which was accused of being too sympathetic towards Cixi by critics. E.g. might be irrelevant to ‘this generation’ though)</p> <p><u>Correlation with real-world/global trends:</u> rise in neo-Nazi factions in Germany, and Nazi sympathizers elsewhere. People with no tangible interests are quick to participate in slacktivism, in recent local pink vs. white campaigns, or in #israelunderfire vs. #savegaza/#freepalestine online lambasting, the quick support turned confusion for the Anti-Kony campaign in 2012, or even how many threw their support (observed on facebook) behind the Tibet/Xinjiang protests in the lead-up to the ‘08 Beijing Games.</p>
<p>“It will lead us to alienate others, act in a hostile manner, or become defensive and isolated.” (Para. 6)</p>	<p><u>Agree</u> that negativity engenders more undesirable behaviours, either posturing itself in an outward form of hostility, or in the inward form of a siege mentality, both of which have the effect of alienating one, making one feel isolated and lonely.</p> <p><u>Sample Application in Sq:</u></p>	<p><u>Disagree</u> that negativity will cause such ill outcomes.</p> <p><u>Demonstrate</u> that perhaps misery loves company, and one might possibly find comfort in behaving in a negative manner, in fact, that one may be able to benefit from it. Compassion may not come easily to everyone. Inadequate handling of negative emotions and feelings (in the name of compassion,</p>

<p>Argument about alienation / displacement / fortressing / siege-mentality as self-harm.</p>	<p>Anti-foreigner sentiment in Singapore has been growing: besides the well-known 'vitriol' thrown against Ma Chi (the Ferrari crash) and Sun Xu (the 'dog' comment), other nationalities have also been attacked in the online sphere. The Little India riots and the attempted Philippine independence day celebrations on Orchard road spurred uncouth 'go home' comments online, inspiring PM Lee to call such behaviour a 'disgrace to Singapore'. Such sentiments seem to be increasingly entrenched in local society and causing worry that Singaporeans might be xenophobic after all. Foreign news press has picked up on this, stating their surprise at the strong reactions from the usually mild Singaporeans.</p>	<p>guilt-induced, good intentions or not), in which the individual tries hard to explain another's hostility away and bottle up/sweep under the carpet negative events etc, may backfire on the individual.</p> <p>Instead of the positive outcome that Firestone argues for, the individual may even crumble in the effort to be 'open and vulnerable' due to the lack of a suitable outlet for the release of unpleasant emotions.</p> <p><u>Sample Situation in Singapore</u> IMH and Central Sg CDC has estimated that up to 30% of women in Singapore are suffering from varying measures of depression, but 2/5s of these are too embarrassed to seek help. Many feel that they are a burden, and choose to isolate themselves. When they do share their problems, some have indicated that others told them to 'snap out of it', causing them to become defensive and retreat further into their depressive shell ('the dark place'?). This demonstrates that the author would be inaccurate in suggesting that allowing oneself to be vulnerable is helpful to the self. In fact, being defensive and isolated for self-preservation is the direct result from having allowed oneself to be hurt in the process of being vulnerable/open.</p>
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