ADVANCED (C1/C2)

Daryl Davis & The KKK

EnglishCurrent.com

WARM-UP

1) What are some extreme religious or political groups in your home country?
2) Would you be willing to talk with someone who holds hateful or offensive views? Why or why not?
3) What's more powerful in the long run: protest or dialogue?

VIDEO How One Black Blues Musician Changed 25 Members of the KKK

Note: The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is an American white supremacist group.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_NHt480W20 (3:47, AmE)

COMPREHENSION & FOLLOW-UP

1) **Recall & Retell:** Summarize the video to a partner in your own words.
2) Overall, what is the main idea of the video?
3) In your opinion, why did the man invite Daryl for a drink?
4) What question has Daryl struggled with since he was a child?
5) When did Daryl realize his conversation partners were beginning to respect him?
6) How does Daryl's approach differ from the current generation's? Which approach do you think is best?

VOCABULARY Match the **bold** words below with their meanings.

- country music had made a **resurgence** in this country.
- Then he makes this **remark** — when the waitress brings my cranberry juice, he **clinks** my glass, cheers me, and says …
- I was **naive**. I wasn't trying to be rude.
- Since age 10, Davis had been **pondering** the question: …
- This uniform represents white **supremacy**.
- … this activist generation is using social media to reach **the masses**.
- … saying his relational approach **undermines** their purpose.
- … when I should be **devoting** my time to changing the system
- the younger generation has the right **intent** — although their methods can sometimes **taint** the mission.

a) _____ (n): a spoken comment or statement

b) _____ (v): thinking carefully and deeply about something

c) _____ (phrase): large numbers of ordinary people

d) _____ (v): lightly hits a glass against another to make a sound, usually in celebration

e) _____ (v): weakens something gradually or makes it less effective

f) _____ (n): the purpose or reason behind someone's actions

g) _____ (v): giving time, effort, or attention to something important

h) _____ (n): a return or increase in popularity/strength after a period of decline

i)	_____ (adj): not experienced or aware of how difficult life or people can be
j)	_____ (v): to damage or spoil the quality or reputation of something
k)	_____ (n): superiority; the state of having more power or control than others

PRACTICE Using phrases from the box, **paraphrase** and then ask the questions to your partner.

ponder / devote / the masses / resurgence / remark / undermine / intent

1) Have you ever said something in the moment that you later wished you could take back?
2) Name one thing that weakens people's trust in democracy.
3) Is a life spent chasing wealth and comfort a wasted one?
4) What is one question you find yourself thinking deeply about?
5) When judging whether an action is right or wrong, does what someone was trying to achieve matter more than the outcome?
6) What trends or beliefs have come back into fashion after years of decline?
7) What's the easiest way to change how millions of everyday people think?

DEBATE

- *My home country is slowly becoming less racist.*
- *The idea that one person can change the system is naive.*

SPEAKING ACTIVITY The Task Force for Progress (Group Work)

Situation: Hate groups have made a resurgence in your country recently. They target minorities such as foreigners and people of certain ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations. You have joined a **task force** devoted to combating these groups. You have come up with these suggestions:

☐ One-on-one conversations	☐ Public shaming
☐ Street protests	☐ Satire/comedy
☐ Legal reform	☐ Viral social media campaigns
☐ Educational programs	☐ Other: _____

Task: Discuss the above ideas with a partner. Create a plan that can help resolve the situation.

ROLEPLAY (Pick a Role)

Situation: The 18-year-old has recently watched Daryl Davis's documentary about the KKK, entitled "Accidental Courtesy" (link).

18-year-old: Davis's documentary has inspired you. Using a similar relational approach, you would like to make a documentary of a hate group in your country.

1) Select a hate group.
2) Think of **why** this project could help society and you personally.
3) Suggest your idea to your parent. Note that the project will require you live with them for at least three months, and you will need about $1000 in camera equipment.

Possible expression: A documentary is the best way to get my message to the masses.

Parent: Your teenage child has just finished high school. They are a little naïve about the world. They would like to talk to you about something.

Possible expression: I think your intent is good, but …

SAMPLE

FAMOUS QUOTATIONS

- *"Love, friendship and respect do not unite people as much as hatred for something." – Anton Chekhov*
- *"Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but has not solved one yet." – Maya Angelou*
- *"Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." – Coretta Scott King*
- *"People don't change their minds because you yell at them." - Daryl Davis*

VOCABULARY REVIEW

Insert one of the vocabulary items from today's lesson into the appropriate blank from memory. If you get stuck, the word bank is below.

1) … country music had made a _____ in this country.
2) Then he makes this _____ — when the waitress brings my cranberry juice, he _____ my glass, cheers me, and says …
3) I was _____. I wasn't trying to be rude.
4) Since age 10, Davis had been _____ the question: …
5) This uniform represents white _____.
6) … this activist generation is using social media to reach _____.
7) … saying his relational approach _____ their purpose.
8) … when I should be _____ my time to changing the system
9) the younger generation has the right _____ — although their methods can sometimes _____ the mission.

clink / supremacy / taint / naive / remark / resurgence / intent / devote / undermine / ponder / the masses

COLLOCATION REVIEW

Match the beginnings of the collocations with their endings.

1)	music comes as naturally as	**a)**	breathing
2)	His unlikely KKK connection	**b)**	attack
3)	As a new generation of African-Americans	**c)**	comes of age, …
4)	You need a multi-prong	**d)**	inspired him to start getting answers

FINAL DISCUSSION

1) How do political and cultural views differ between older and younger generations?
2) Should people always be given the chance to change, no matter how hateful their beliefs?
3) How has social media affected the influence of hate groups?
4) What did you learn from today's lesson?

WRITING PROMPTS

A. Use the examples from the video to write a **reflective essay** on how *empathy* can be used as a tool for social change.

B. Write an **opinion paragraph**, clearly outlining your stance, on whether it is ever acceptable to give hateful people a platform (e.g. interviews in the news or podcasts) to discuss their views.

SAMPLE

This lesson plan was created by Matthew Barton of EnglishCurrent.com (copyright). Site members may photocopy and edit the file for their classes. Permission is not given to rebrand the lesson, redistribute it on another platform, or sell it as part of commercial course curriculum. Claude AI was used to assist with answer keys and famous quotations..

ANSWER KEY

Comprehension Questions

1. …
2. The video shows how Daryl Davis used personal conversation and music to form relationships with KKK members and change their views.
3. Because Daryl had impressed him with his music, and the man was curious — it was a moment of openness.
4. "How can you hate me when you don't even know me?"
5. When the Klan members began asking for his opinion — not just answering his questions.
6. Daryl uses personal, one-on-one dialogue; the younger generation uses activism and social media. Both approaches have value, but students may have differing opinions on which is more effective.

Vocabulary Answer Key

Vocabulary: a-remark, b-pondering, c-masses, d-clinks, e-undermines, f-intent, g-devoting, h-resurgence, i-naive, j-taint, k-supremacy

Collocation Answer Key

Collocations 1-a, 2-d, 3-c, 4-b

SAMPLE