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## #GamerGate

DFP 2014

*Utah State University*

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## CANDIDATE 2: #GamerGate: feminism, online harassment, video games, and journalism

#GamerGate started in August of 2014 as a response to the discredited accusation of a former boyfriend of game creator Zoe Quinn; he claimed that Quinn slept with a journalist/blogger from *Kotaku*. This accusation spawned online harassment of both Quinn and her supporters. The response to these accusations involved misogyny, harassment, violence towards women, and sexism in gaming. Other feminist gamers like Brianna Wu and Felicia Day were also harassed when they either expressed feminist views regarding gaming or made oppositional statements regarding the #GamerGate hashtag.

- 1. Dynamic variation.** The continuing usage of this hashtag, as well as the controversy surrounding it, has led to an online folk conversation about the issues raised by it.
- 2. Folkloric.** Predominately used on Twitter, the #GamerGate hashtag can also be found in memes, comics, and YouTube videos. The hashtag #NotYourShield emerged from the original #GamerGate, as well as movements like "The Fine Young Capitalists," "Operation Disrespectful Nod," and "Operation Baby Seal."
- 3. Grassroots.** #GamerGate originated at the grassroots-level within the community; it has mainly been used regarding both journalistic integrity and sexism in videogames. It has had a polarizing effect on the gaming community.
- 4. Persistent over time.** Although the #GamerGate hashtag was most prominent in August of 2014, it is still being used on Twitter.
- 5. Culturally significant.** The #GamerGate hashtag has also led to deeper discussions regarding current social issues such as online harassment and feminism.



**CANDIDATE 2: #GamerGate: feminism, online harassment, video games, and journalism**

	Poor Example	Below Average Example	Average Example	Above Average Example	Excellent Example
Dynamic variation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Folkloric	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grassroots, "bottom-up" cultural commentary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Persistent over time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Culturally significant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Is there anything else you would like to say about CANDIDATE 2?