**Step 3 Three approaches, one truth ANSWERS (3 VIDEOS)**

Exercise 1: This extract entitled “This generation is the last free generation” is a pessimistic message delivered by Julian Assange, founder of Wikileaks during a forum about the ethical use of data around the world. He is known for publishing confidential information for instance atrocities committed by the US Army during the Iraq War. That’s the reason why there is an international warrant for his arrest.

This video was recorded by a masked hacktivist who is immediately identified as a member of the group Anonymous. He addresses the UK government because of their disrespectful treatment of British citizens and declares them an enemy of Anonymous. The pointed finger of the masked man towards the audience in the picture is coherent with the warning message he is delivering.

This is the trailer for the documentary entitled *The Internet’s Own Boy* by Brian Knappenberger. This documentary is about the life of Aaron Swartz, a man who committed suicide at 26 after being sentenced to 35 years in prison for several hacking-related charges.

Exercise 2: According to Assange, we are seeing the last free generation because in China, in most European countries and in the United States, idiotic parents post photos of their babies on Facebook or insurance application or passport application so that within a year this baby is “known globally, [its] identity in one form or another” to all the world's major powers and all the world's commercial powers. This means a small child has now to negotiate its relationship to all the major powers. Very few people in the audience are now technically capable of choosing to live apart and to live their own way. This is a significant cultural change.

This Anonymous member claims that the UK government is imposing worsening austerity measures upon the people of UK by increasing taxes for individuals and small businesses, cuts to National Health Service, education system pensions and police force while giving tax breaks to wealthy corporations and enormous bonuses to the bankers who are responsible for the financial crisis. Anonymous accuses the UK government of having created a system where the poor remain poor and the wealthy remain wealthy. Anonymous points at the UK government infringing on the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people when attempting to gain access to their private and confidential information. The speaker ends up with “Anonymous is not a small group of powerless people to ignore we are an organized globally active collective of like-minded individuals. And our message is clear. We declare war on this current system you have imposed us. Your worst enemy is now your own people. Revolution has begun”. He concludes with the group’s slogan “We are anonymous. We are legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us.”

Brian Knappenberger thought that it was easy to feel powerless when you come out in the street you march and yell and nobody hears you, he was the co-founder of the social news and entertainment website and wanted to make the world work, to fix it and to bring public access to the public domain. Some said he was a prodigy, that “he didn’t hack in the traditional sense of hacking”, “he wasn’t stealing, he was making a point”, others claimed that he was a criminal and a serious threat to people using Internet. Brian aimed at showing that the freedoms his country had been built on would be certainly deleted. It was another instance of cyberwar, he put himself at risk for the causes he believed in. He felt that the American government wanted to make an example out of him.

Exercise 3: This video is about blowing the whistle about the end of privacy starting with one’s identity spreading on the Internet all over the globe.

This video is about the well-known hacktivist group Anonymous addressing the UK government. The speaker recaps all the warnings delivered by Anonymous and the list of evil actions undertaken by the UK government including spying on its citizens. The speaker announces that Anonymous is now an enemy of UK government which means retaliation.

This video deals with Brian Knappenberger who confronted the American government on public data access on Internet. I understood that the whistleblower / hacktivist’s intention was to warn the American citizens about their fundamental liberties being deleted and their data being hacked.

The quotes I found were about individuals and their identity, data and privacy facing powerful groups disregarding their rights and liberties.

The three speakers decided to take a stand against powerful groups governmental, financial or commercial groups sometimes national or even international.

Their aim is to inform the citizens and preserve individual liberties.

They want us to reflect on the society we live in and on how we can protect our data and privacy.

The speakers in these videos clearly state that we are all concerned by data going global and that every citizen’s privacy is seriously threatened.

CONCLUSION These videos illustrate the fights whistleblowers and hacktivists are leading against data going global, against governments spying on their own citizens or denying their citizens access to information. Individuals look powerless except when they join groups like Anonymous or websites such as WikiLeaks. However, such actions are not without consequences, they are taken at their own lives’ risks since Brian Knappenberger was sentenced to jail and committed suicide and Julian Assange is currently under a search warrant.

* Whistleblowers or hacktivists are inspirational as their actions require bravery. They are facing not just individuals but powerful groups, governments and international corporate companies which don’t intend to give up their control or benefits. They are threatening the advantages and the power of huge groups. They are violently fought back, their own lives are being put at stake.
* Whistleblowers or hacktivists aren’t inspirational as they break the laws, they do not respect the order established in democratic countries. Besides, most of them have been charged with hacking or related to hacking, some of them have been sentenced to jail / prison. In other words, they are criminals of the virtual world but real dangers. Governments accuse hacktivists of being cyber-terrorists.

**Titre de la vidéo :** Group 1: “This generation is the last free generation” **Timing :** 2’15

I SAY THAT THIS GENERATION, well that, perhaps our generation, but anyway, this generation being born now, in seconds, in most countries, uh sorry, very shortly in most countries, and that's already happened in, in say China,most European countries and the United States, is the last free generation. You're born, and either immediately or within say a year, you are known globally. Your identity, in one form or another, coming, as a result to your idiotic parents plastering your name and photos over Facebook, or as a result of insurance application or passport application, transport, on airlines, etc. You, you're known to all the world's major powers, all the world's major, state powers and all the world's major commercial powers.

That's a very different situation for individuals to be in than they have previously been in. But a small child, now, in some sense, has to negotiate its relationship with all the world's major powers.

Of course, in practice, it can't do anything. Its parents are not managing that negotiation.

But it puts us in a, I think, a very different position. In the sense that very few, in fact, maybe only a few people in this audience, very technically capable people are able to no longer... are able to live apart, to choose to live apart, to choose to go their own way. They must be part of not only the state, but the major state-like corporations, so the powerful, they may as well be states, and not just their own states, but other states as well. That's a significant change, a cultural change for humanity.

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**Titre de la vidéo :** Group 2: A message to the UK government **Timing :** 2’52

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| Greetings citizens of the world, we are Anonymous.  Government of the United Kingdom, it has come to our attention that despite our continued warnings, you have decided to disregard our requests to assist the people of this country and have persisted in running a system which only benefits yourselves and giant corporate bodies operating here. We have asked politely on many occasions that you change your attitude towards leadership, that you serve the country rather than control, that you maintain the rights and freedoms of citizens. Instead, you have decided to impose worsening austerity measures upon the people of the UK, increasing taxes for citizens and small businesses, making cuts to our national health service, education system, pensions and police force. You have told the people that the only option out of the financial crisis is to make cuts and have made those humorous joke 'we are all in this together' while simultaneously giving tax breaks to the wealthy corporations, enormous bonuses to the bankers all responsible for the financial crisis in our country and attempts at increasing your own wages.  You have created a system which ensures the poor remain poor and the wealthy remain wealthy. You continue to infringe on the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people attempting to gain access to our private and confidential information. It is now very clear to us that you had no intention of running the country for our people but you will continue to run it to benefit yourselves. This system has failed us. We now have homeless people dying on the street this winter, people unable to support their families, people can no longer afford their education. You keep the elderly at work for much longer, keeping jobs and opportunities for younger people out of their reach. The number of unemployed has skyrocketed. In response, you force those on benefits into unpaid labour, doing more hours and pay them for those properly employed. You add insult to injury. We say enough is enough to the UK government.  You have made an enemy of Anonymous. You have angered us considerably and we pose a significant threat to you. You disregard the requests of the people and continue to operate for your own selfish gain. Anonymous is not a small group of powerless people to ignore.  We are an organized globally active collective of like-minded individuals and our message is clear: we declare war on this current system you have imposed us. Your worst enemy is now your own people. The revolution has begun. We are anonymous. We are legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us! |

**Titre de la vidéo :** Group 3: The Internet’s Own Boy **Timing :** 2’09

You know, it's easy sometimes to feel like you're powerless, like you come out in the street and you march and you yell and nobody hears you. But I'm here to tell you today, you are powerful, you can stop this bill.

A cofounder of the social news and entertainment website Reddit has been found dead.

Aaron learnt how to learn at a very young age.

Bob introduced him to computers and he just took off!

He certainly was a prodigy although he never kind of thought of himself like that...

He really had different aspirations for the purposes of political goals...

He was sort of learning to hack politics...

Stop SOPA!\*

This bill poses a serious threat for all who use the Internet.

The freedoms our country had been built on will be suddenly... deleted.

I couldn't let that happen!

Now he was trying to make the world... work. He was trying to fix it.

Bringing public access to the public domain.

He doesn't hack JSTOR\*\* in the traditional sense of hacking.

He wasn't stealing, he was making a point.

They arrested him, strip-searched him and left them in solitary confinement.

He said... they want to make an example out of me.

On the Internet, everybody has a license to speak. It's a question of who gets heard.

Aaron Swartz was not a criminal.

I can tell this is another instance of cyberwar, the cyber-criminals are attacking us again. They use those as excuses to push more and more dangerous laws.

This is a poor use of prosecutorial discretion.

He should never have gotten the attention of the criminal system.

We need to gather up our positions today because today is when it matters.

I'm still angry this is what we as a people think is ok!

Aaron was willing to put himself at risk for the causes that he believed in.

He was the Internet's own boy and the old world killed him.

\* Stop Online Piracy Act

\*\* a digital library founded in 1995