

Not a game: Cards Against Humanity avoids tariffs by ditching rules, adding explanations

Cards Against Humanity, the often-vulgar card game, has launched a limited edition of its namesake product without any instructions and with a detailed explanation of each joke, “why it’s funny, and any relevant social, political, or historical context.”

Why? Because, produced in this form, “Cards Against Humanity Explains the Joke” is not a game at all, which would be subject to tariffs as the cards are produced overseas. Instead, the product is “information material” and thus not sanctionable under the law Trump has been using—and CAH says it has obtained a ruling to this effect from Customs and Border Patrol.

“What if DHS Secretary and Dog Murderer Kristi Noem gets mad and decides that Cards Against Humanity Explains the Joke is not informational material?” the company asks in an FAQ about the new edition. (If you don’t follow US politics, Noem really did kill her dog Cricket.) Answer: “She can fuck right off, because we got a binding ruling from Trump’s own government that confirms this product is informational and 100% exempt from his stupid tariffs.”

Pre-orders for the \$25 product end on October 15, and it will allegedly never be reprinted. All profits will be donated to the American Library Association “to fight censorship.”

This is the way

Now, I would never claim that *Cards Against Humanity* is a particularly highbrow form of entertainment; for instance, the website promoting the new edition opens with “Trump is Going to Fuck Christmas” in giant white letters. (That headline refers to Trump’s tariffs... I hope.)

“This holiday season, give your loved ones the gift of knowledge, give America’s libraries the gift of cash, and don’t give Donald Trump a fucking cent,” the site says.

<https://arstechnica.com/culture/2025/10/to-avoid-tariffs-cards-against-humanity-becomes-information-material-not-a-game/>