CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Nvidia Board Reinstates Huang as Shares Surge Over 30%

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 3



AI illustration

1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Nvidia's board voted unanimously to restore co-founder Jensen Huang to the chief executive role, reversing its prior ruling that had blocked his return to the helm of the semiconductor giant. Effective immediately, Huang reclaimed the position he had resigned from on November 12, ending a period during which chief financial officer Colette Kress had served as interim chief executive. Markets responded with extraordinary force: Nvidia shares climbed more than 30% in pre-market trading on the Monday following the announcement, signalling renewed investor confidence in the company's trajectory. US President Donald Trump publicly praised the board's decision, stating that Nvidia's leadership was important to the American economy. The endorsement carried particular weight given that Trump had purchased as much as $US265,000 ($400,000) in Nvidia stock in September, just weeks before reports emerged about Mr Huang's connections to a woman suspected of spying for China. Public pressure had also mounted significantly in the interim: a petition demanding Mr Huang's reinstatement gathered over 180,000 signatures, including one from Elon Musk. The episode underscores how swiftly corporate governance reversals can reshape market sentiment when leadership credibility is perceived as a strategic asset rather than merely an operational detail.

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2 Key words

reinstate /ˌriːɪnˈsteɪt/ *verb*

To restore a person to a former position, role, or status after they had been removed or had left.

After the tribunal's ruling was overturned, the judge was swiftly reinstated to the bench.

unanimously /juːˈnænɪməsli/ *adverb*

In a way that involves complete agreement from every member of a group; with no dissent whatsoever.

The committee unanimously adopted the new environmental guidelines despite opposition from industry lobbyists.

trajectory /trəˈdʒektəri/ *noun*

The projected path or direction of development that a person, organisation, or situation is likely to follow over time.

The sudden loss of two major contracts sharply altered the company's upward trajectory.

endorsement /ɪnˈdɔːsmənt/ *noun*

A public declaration of approval or support for a person, decision, or course of action, often carrying significant political or social weight.

The celebrity endorsement of the candidate proved divisive, drawing both enthusiastic support and fierce backlash.

interim /ˈɪntərɪm/ *adjective*

Serving temporarily in a role or capacity until a permanent arrangement or successor is established.

The interim manager introduced several cost-cutting measures but made clear they were only provisional pending the new director's arrival.

strategic asset /strəˈtɛdʒɪk ˈæset/ *noun*

A resource, capability, or quality that holds critical importance for long-term planning, competitive advantage, or organisational success, rather than merely serving day-to-day operations.

In a knowledge economy, skilled researchers are not just operational staff but a strategic asset that determines an institution's global standing.

3 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Stance and Detail in the Nvidia Reinstatement Report

3 points

Read the lesson text carefully and choose the best answer for each question. All answers are stated or clearly implied in the text.

1 What does the text suggest about the relationship between Trump's financial interest and the timing of the spying reports?

(a) Trump had invested in Nvidia shortly before reports about Huang's alleged connections surfaced, which gave his subsequent endorsement particular weight.

(b) Trump sold his Nvidia stock immediately after the reports emerged, signalling he no longer supported Huang.

(c) Trump invested in Nvidia only after publicly praising the board's decision.

(d) The reports about Huang's connections were published several months after Trump's investment and had no bearing on his endorsement.

2 The final sentence of the text makes a broader claim about which of the following?

(a) Corporate governance reversals always lead to positive market outcomes regardless of the circumstances.

(b) Leadership credibility can function as a strategic asset whose perceived value can be rapidly reshaped by governance decisions.

(c) Interim leadership arrangements are inherently unstable and always trigger share sell-offs.

(d) Investor confidence depends solely on the personal wealth of company executives.

3 Which of the following best describes the nature of Huang's departure from the chief executive role?

(a) He was dismissed by the board following an investigation into his conduct.

(b) He resigned on November 12, and the board had subsequently blocked his return until the unanimous vote to restore him.

(c) He stepped down voluntarily with the expectation of an immediate return within weeks.

(d) He was placed on administrative leave while Colette Kress took over as a permanent replacement.

EXERCISE 2 Factual Recall and Paraphrasing

Answer the following questions in full sentences using only information from the lesson text.

1 What was the board's prior ruling regarding Huang's return, and how was it changed?

2 How did the market respond to the announcement, and what did this response signal?

3 What role did Colette Kress play during the period Huang was absent from the chief executive position?

4 Guided writing

EXERCISE 3 Critical Commentary: Governance and Market Sentiment

Write a critical commentary of 150–220 words summarising the Nvidia reinstatement episode and its broader implications for corporate governance and market behaviour. You must faithfully represent only the facts and arguments present in the lesson text. Use at least three of the following keywords in your response. Write 150 to 220 words. Use these words: unanimously, interim, strategic asset, endorsement, trajectory.

5 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 4 Speaking

1. The text concludes that leadership credibility can be 'perceived as a strategic asset rather than merely an operational detail'. Do you think this framing is appropriate for modern corporations, or does it risk conflating personal brand with institutional governance? What are the dangers of tying market confidence to a single individual's credibility?
2. Trump's endorsement 'carried particular weight' because he had purchased Nvidia stock shortly before the reports emerged. How should we evaluate the relationship between personal financial interest and public political endorsement of corporate decisions? Does an endorsement become less credible when the endorser has a stake, or more so?
3. Public pressure, including a petition of over 180,000 signatures, played a role in the episode. To what extent should public mobilisation and social-media-level pressure influence corporate governance decisions made by boards of directors? Where is the appropriate boundary between democratic participation and fiduciary responsibility?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Stance and Detail in the Nvidia Reinstatement Report

1. A. Trump had invested in Nvidia shortly before reports about Huang's alleged connections surfaced, which gave his subsequent endorsement particular weight. The text states Trump purchased the stock 'in September, just weeks before reports emerged', and that 'the endorsement carried particular weight' because of this timing. This implies his financial stake made his public support more meaningful.
2. B. Leadership credibility can function as a strategic asset whose perceived value can be rapidly reshaped by governance decisions. The concluding sentence explicitly states that 'leadership credibility is perceived as a strategic asset rather than merely an operational detail' and that governance reversals can 'reshape market sentiment' swiftly.
3. B. He resigned on November 12, and the board had subsequently blocked his return until the unanimous vote to restore him. The text says Huang 'resigned from on November 12' and that the board had 'a prior ruling that had blocked his return', which was reversed by the unanimous vote.

Exercise 2 Factual Recall and Paraphrasing

1. The board had issued a prior ruling that blocked Huang's return to the chief executive role, but it voted unanimously to reverse that ruling and restore him to the position effective immediately. The text explicitly states the board voted 'to restore' Huang, 'reversing its prior ruling that had blocked his return'.
2. Nvidia shares climbed more than 30% in pre-market trading on the Monday following the announcement, which the text describes as signalling renewed investor confidence in the company's trajectory. The text gives the exact figure ('more than 30%'), the timing ('pre-market trading on the Monday'), and the interpretation ('signalling renewed investor confidence').
3. Colette Kress, the company's chief financial officer, served as interim chief executive during the period between Huang's resignation on November 12 and his reinstatement. The text identifies Kress as 'chief financial officer' who 'served as interim chief executive' during the gap.

Exercise 3 Critical Commentary: Governance and Market Sentiment

Nvidia's board voted unanimously to reinstate Jensen Huang as chief executive, reversing a prior ruling that had blocked his return after his resignation on November 12. During the interim period, chief financial officer Colette Kress had served as acting chief executive. The market's response was dramatic: shares surged more than 30% in pre-market trading on the Monday following the announcement, signalling renewed investor confidence in the company's trajectory. US President Donald Trump's public endorsement of the decision carried particular weight given his September purchase of up to $US265,000 in Nvidia stock, which occurred just weeks before reports emerged about Huang's connections to a woman suspected of spying for China. Meanwhile, public pressure had mounted through a petition gathering over 180,000 signatures, including one from Elon Musk. The episode underscores a critical principle: when leadership credibility is perceived as a strategic asset rather than merely an operational detail, corporate governance reversals can reshape market sentiment almost instantaneously, blurring the boundary between governance decisions and investor psychology. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.