Short introduction to the novel in the 17th century

1. **Cultural context:**

* Political situation: British Empire
* Urbanisation is going on
* Concerned with order, reason, method, use of science
* Use of science, nature becomes a key term
* Experimental (someone that is experienced)
* Enlightment values: individualism, liberalism, skepticism
* Sense of public participation
* Spread of press

1. **Novel**

* Experimental
* Varied/ new audiences
* Loose structure
* Female authors, readers and subjects
* Comedies of manner: moralizing, thriller, horror, fantasy