



MEDIA LITERACY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Film and other forms of media can be powerful tools to provide educational content and spark much-needed dialogue. They can be a ***catalyst for leadership development*** and ***inspire individuals*** to go beyond the role of viewer and ***take action for social change***.

Over the last few years, many wonderful and thought-provoking media projects have been produced on a range of issues. They tell the personal stories of immigrants and refugees migrating to the US and other countries. And they can inform us about the conditions and push factors that force people to move – from impacts of climate change/environmental degradation of homelands – to war, social exclusion, poverty, and violence.

NNIRR encourages viewers to consider a set of basic questions that will help communities look critically at the bigger context of the “migration story” and to consider the filmmaker’s motivations in telling the chosen narrative, and the perspective and ways in which they portray their characters.

NNIRR is interested in providing our members with direct access to films and creative multi-media that:

- **Explicitly or implicitly confront the multiple layers of xenophobic and racist narratives about immigrants and refugees**
- **Promote a broad framework for human rights**
- **Draw links to interrelated socio-political conditions and push factors that drive migration**

The films and filmmakers come from many different perspectives and convey equally diverse messages, some are more explicit while others are subtle, but all deserve critical analysis and discussion. We have provided a set of general questions to get conversations started and encourage you to share these films in all sorts of settings and “discussion” venues: in your living rooms with a small group of family and friends, at larger community screenings/events, or in classrooms of all ages (after first carefully vetting content for younger viewers).

Should you come up with your own set of questions for any of the different films we provide access to, or to the general discussion questions below, please share them with us so we can add your insights to our collective resources.

THEMES TO OBSERVE IN THESE FILMS:

- Push factors and conditions that force people to migrate
- Policies of exclusion, discrimination and enforcement
- Racism, xenophobia fueling U.S. and global anti-immigrant fervor
- Solidarity and welcoming communities
- Human rights
- Models of community organizing, resistance and resilience
- Intersections of social justice issues: gender, race, class, LGBTQI, environment, etc.



NNIRR FILM & MULTIMEDIA LITERACY GENERAL DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What are the themes or messages we can take away from this film?
2. In what ways does this film reflect fundamental values of rights and justice (or not)?
3. In what ways does this story reflect the reasons that push people to leave their homelands and migrate to another country?
4. What are the interrelated issues this story might convey? (E.g., gender, climate, worker's rights, LGBTQI, economic justice, etc.)
5. Was there anything that surprised you? If so, what and why?
6. Are there any messages or portrayals of characters that you find either problematic or particularly positive?
7. How did the filmmaker's choices support or take away from the story being told?
8. Why do you think the filmmaker chose to make a film or media project about this particular story or set of stories?
9. Identify the choices the filmmaker made in how they told the story – visual/cinematography, sound, types of dialogue, character portrayal and perspectives of those interviewed or profiled. Did these strategies help or hinder the message?
10. How is the availability of graphic images (prevalent through social media and accessibility of personal filming devices) a positive in telling the story? How is it a negative?
11. What are other questions we should ask when screening this film in our broad communities to promote education, understanding?
12. Do you believe this is a worthwhile story and/or method to spark greater community dialogue, education and action?
13. Does this film inspire you to take action for social change? If so, how?

Please contact: nnirinfo@nnirr.org if...

- You have a film or media project you believe NNIRR should promote on this page or
- You have suggestions to add to discussion questions/guides
- You want to reach out for any other reason!