



POST FILM SCREENING DISCUSSION GUIDE

A discussion or Q&A session following a film screening can be a valuable addition to your event. Participants can learn from one another or from an expert in attendance, ask questions, find support and, we hope, inspiration to take action.

Consider inviting an expert to lead a Q&A session. For example, videos that address health and diet are ideal places for a nurse, doctor, or dietician to lend their expertise. Whether or not an expert is present, the following guide provides tips that will help create an enriching dialogue for the audience.

- Turn lights on after the credits finish.
- Thank everyone for attending.
- Acknowledge that the film is powerful and elicits various responses.
- Have volunteers distribute comment cards and pens and request that attendees take a moment to fill them out. Allow 1–5 minutes for this. When people are done writing, volunteers can come by and collect the cards and give them to you.
- Open the discussion up by inviting reactions, comments, or questions.
- If no one responds within a few seconds, offer something from your personal experience to get the discussion rolling: your reaction when you first saw the film, reactions other people have shared with you, news about the film, etc.
- Look through the cards and share a poignant comment, pose a question to the group, or answer a question written on a card.
- As viewers begin to participate, it's important to repeat each question and ensure that the audio is adequate so that everyone in the audience engaged.
- As the facilitator, you are welcome to respond to questions and comments but you do not need to be the only responder or have all the answers. You can simply acknowledge a question and put it back to the audience for a response. This technique encourages an open dialogue, exposes different perspectives, and invites participation from more viewers.
- Once the discussion winds down, thank the audience for sharing and being part of the discussion. You can also acknowledge their insights or summarize significant aspects of the conversation.
- Inform the audience what they can do to learn more about the subject and to take action. You can provide website resources, inform them about relevant local organizations, and remind them of the free literature available.
- If you are serving food, invite the audience to participate.

ADDITIONAL MODERATOR TIPS

ALLOW FOR SILENCE: Brief periods of quiet where no one wishes to speak are perfectly normal. People often need time to gain confidence to develop their response, and it often takes the first response to get the ball rolling. Offer something from your own experience to get the discussion rolling. Comment cards (see above) are helpful in kick-starting the discussion.

MAINTAIN FOCUS: When a viewer raises an unrelated topic, their question is overly complicated, or a comment goes well beyond the scope of the film, acknowledge the question but suggest that you both discuss it one-on-one after the group Q&A.

LISTEN AND ACCEPT: It's natural for viewers to have a strong emotional response to a film. If someone shares powerful emotions, you can simply validate them by stating how common it is to experience a wide range of feelings. You can share a story of your own response to the film or reach out to the audience to see if others share similar feelings and invite comments.

FOSTER PEACE: Occasionally, someone may express annoyance or anger toward someone, raise an issue in an antagonistic manner, or attempt to dominate the conversation by interrupting repeatedly. These types of threats to a respectful atmosphere can be handled by acknowledging their comment and offering to discuss after the group Q&A. You can also remind the individual that others would like to speak, and, given the limited time, that the discussion needs to proceed to another topic.