



Film Screenings: Community Discussion Guide

Use this guide to get ideas for facilitating a book-club style audience conversation for our short and long-form documentary films. Questions can help center the conversation on the wonder of scientific discovery and the positive impact of vaccines on public health. If the discussion drifts too far toward general questions about vaccines and their safety, direct people to resources for reliable vaccine information, such as the Vaccine Education Center website: vaccine.chop.edu.

Your speakers and the audience should freely engage in discussion but you may need to move the conversation along from time to time. We recommend having several questions ready in the event that you do need to keep things moving. You will not have time to go over all of these questions, and you might have your own questions that you would like the audience to consider. As such, we recommend reviewing this list and choosing a few questions that you feel are particularly relevant should you need them.

Discussion question examples

- What surprised you the most about the film/video?
- What were some moments that stood out to you? Why?
- Were you already familiar with the topics/people/science/information in the film? If not, what did you learn?
- Were you already familiar with the disease or diseases that were shown in the film? If not, what was new or surprising? Why do you think this information might be less commonly known? Do you think it would be helpful for others to be aware of this?
- What moments in [the scientist's life and career] do you think were the most pivotal? How do you think the story would have changed had those episodes or events not taken place?
- How important is the setting and time period to the story of the film? Do you think this story would have played out the same way in a different setting or time period?
- How important a role do you think the scientist's personality played in their ability to achieve their goals?
- Were you surprised by the way the scientists in the film talked about vaccine safety? What struck you about their behaviors or attitudes concerning vaccine safety?
- Many scientists working in vaccines have expressed that it seems as if some vaccine-preventable diseases have to make a resurgence for people to realize how dangerous they are. Do you agree or do you think there are other ways to help people realize how dangerous the diseases can be?

FIND MORE INFORMATION

Check out our offerings and find screening-related resources: hillemanfilm.com/screening-resources

