

Questions to Consider While Watching the Films



The purpose of the *New Immigrant and Refugee Visions* project is to use the films to stimulate discussion.

Here are some questions to consider as you watch the films:

- **What do you relate to** in the films? What reminds you of things in your own life? Or conversely, what feels unfamiliar, new, or surprising?
- How are the **immigrant family relations** depicted in the films similar or different than yours?
- Do you have one or more **places that you call home** and how does that effect your sense of belonging?
- Do you speak **one or more languages** at home? Or, are multiple languages spoken in your community? How does a mono-lingual, mono-cultural or multi-lingual, multi-cultural environment impact you as an immigrant or as someone born in the US?
- Some describe the US as a **melting pot** and others as a **salad bowl**? What is your opinion of this distinction and how does it affect you?
- Are immigrants increasing or decreasing **economic growth and opportunity** in the United States and how does this impact you?
- Do you **work** in the same industry as most of your friends and family or is this a unique and acceptable aspect of the immigrant experience?
- Can you think of an occasion when you **changed your mind about an issue**? What would change people's minds about immigrants or immigration?
- Have you ever been, or witnessed someone being, **misunderstood, stereotyped or attacked** for what they look like or where they come from? What does being American mean to you? What actions do you take to deal with these differences and confrontations?

Amplifying local voices to foster equitable societies

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Issues to Consider During Discussion



Immigrant issues in America can generate strong opinions, but we are committed to providing a safe space for everyone to engage in productive civil discourse.

We want to include your perspectives, so...

Get-the-NIRV and voice your opinion!

Topics that may come up and things to think about even if we don't talk about them:

- **Immigrant Perspectives:** Similarities between immigrant lives and your own; Challenges that immigrants face; Contributions that immigrants make to American society.
- **Native-born Perspectives:** Reasons that some might be uncomfortable with new immigrants and their social and economic and cultural impact.
- **Media:** What gets covered by broadcast, print & social media? What doesn't? Why? How does media representation of immigrants affect public perception, behavior and policy? What is the value of amplifying immigrant voices in the media?
- **Policies & Regulations:** How do public attitudes impact policies? How do we decide what policies demonstrate social and economic justice?
- **Behaviors & Priorities:** What drives social and political behavior? How does society change what behaviors are acceptable?
- **Myths:** How do we know what are myths vs. facts about immigrants? How do we learn and communicate the facts and our interpretation of the facts?

ACTION TOOLKIT

What actions will you take?

PERSONAL

- Talk to immigrants
- Speak up when people say things that are uninformed
- Tell a friend or neighbor about what you learned today
- Tell people about the NIRV videos
- Organize a *Screen & Discuss* event in your community
- Get involved in immigrant issues
- Donate to or volunteer for a local organization
- Help people learn the facts
- Share the stories you've learned (see *sample texts**)



Places to start

csfilm.org/resources
 ctb.ku.edu (Community Tool Box)
 welcomingamerica.org/learn/resources

* sample texts in full Action Toolkit at csfilm.org/resources

MEDIA

- Write a letter to the editor or an opinion editorial
- Support/consume news produced independently, by locals
- Encourage media to cover local immigrant stories
- Create your own content
- Share the CSFilm Media Manifesto

CSFILM MEDIA MANIFESTO:*

Consumers of media, ask yourself:

- Who is selecting the stories you are consuming?
- Is the filmmaker, reporter, columnist, writer a local?
- Does the story include local perspectives?
- If story comes from outsider, why not a local reporter?

Media makers, remember to:

- Listen deep and look long, ask subjects what should be shown
- Amplify the voices, views, and actions of your subjects
- Search for root causes and consider systemic explanations
- Show, don't tell! Let your audience experience the story



Places to start

csfilm.org/resources
 * full version in full Action Toolkit at csfilm.org/resources

MYTHS and FACTS

- Know the facts and opinions on all sides
- Research immigrant issues (lots online, check bias)
- Share the facts you know
- Be a voice for learning, understanding and civil discourse
- Understand how facts are different than priorities



Myths about Immigrants

- Mostly illegal
- Take handouts
- Steal jobs
- Many criminals and terrorists...

Research-based Facts*

- ~13% foreign born, ~3.5% undocumented
- Immigrants use 25% less services than native
- Increases in immigrants show no corresponding increase in unemployment rates
- Incarceration rates: 1.6% of foreign born vs 3.3% of native born

Sources for information: Census.gov, Pewresearch.org, Politifact.org, Factcheck.org

Places to start

csfilm.org/resources
 * sources listed in full Action Toolkit at csfilm.org/resources

POLITICAL

- Learn about local, state and national laws and regulations
- Learn what laws and regulations are under debate
- Call your representative (federal, state or local)
- Write to lawmakers
- Volunteer to share your immigrant story with lawmakers
- Register new citizens to vote
- Assist with the citizenship process
- Start or get involved in a campaign for a candidate or issue
- Thank local officials
- Run for office



Places to start

csfilm.org/resources
Federal: govtrack.us/congress/bills/subjects/immigration/6206
 aila.org (search "pending legislation")
State: ncsl.org/research/immigration.aspx
Your Representative: usa.gov/elected-officials