

Tips for Post-Screening Discussion

AUGUST TO JUNE can raise a range of emotions, questions and/or concerns from the audience. The post-screening discussion gives you an opportunity to address these questions and concerns and motivate the audience to get involved or take action toward your group's goals.

MEETING YOUR OBJECTIVES

The way the discussion is framed can be helpful in meeting your objectives.

- If you're hoping to build coalitions, create or enhance whole child programs, the discussion should be action-oriented. Focus on what needs to be done, how to facilitate action, and how various community sectors can contribute.
- If your goal is to raise awareness, come prepared to offer your audience members ways to get involved, including information about specific actions they can take locally (from supporting their child's teacher, to bringing their concerns to school board meetings, to organizing opt-outs to testing) or nationally. Direct them to the *AUGUST TO JUNE* website, your own website or to other local organizations for further ideas.
- If you'd like to raise your organization's visibility, plan to showcase your press, potential funders, and other influential decision makers involved with you as part of the discussion.

Here are some good discussion starters:

- Tell us a story about what you've seen that's energized you. What from your own experiences resonates with what you saw and heard in the film?
- Ask the panelists/audience for their take on the situation in your area. What are the issues?
- What's the biggest challenge you're facing in creating more opportunities for meaningful learning?
- What can we do as teachers, parents, members of this community to influence what happens in our children's classrooms?
- What can those of us working in schools do to lay the groundwork for bigger change?
- What policies need to be changed to ensure a rich and appropriate education for all children?
- What could be added to teacher and school administration training to strengthen a teacher's ability to teach the whole child?

GUIDING THE DISCUSSION

Guide any comments or concerns to a positive end that applauds the benefits of sharing information in an open forum. Encourage critical audience members to consider ways the film can address the tensions that they are feeling. Whole group discussions may be best in many situations, but alternatives to consider are: having audience members turn and talk to their neighbor, breaking into small groups, or dividing the group based on discussion topics of interest. Post-its that can be organized on a wall by categories, or 3x5 cards, are useful in the moment and also to inform those not present. Send any results of your discussions (photos, newsletters...) that we can post to info@augusttojune.com.