



Lights, Camera, Civics!

Film Discussion Planning Guide



Film Discussion Planning Guide: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

1. Identify an educator in your county who has positive connections to other educators, students, and the community at large. This person might be a college professor, a high school or middle school teacher, or a school administrator. This person should be comfortable speaking in front of a group of mixed ages and be skilled at leading civil discussions.

2. Identify a lawyer in your county who has positive connections with his/her community. This person will ideally have participated in the past with the New Hampshire Bar Association's outreach to schools, such as Lawyer in Every School. This lawyer should be comfortable speaking in front of a group but also skilled at leading civil discussions in which everyone has an opportunity to speak.

3. The educator and the lawyer will work together to select a youth in the community who:

- (a) is influential with other youth,
- (b) has some experience with planning events, and
- (c) is comfortable both in speaking in front of a group of people of mixed ages and in helping to facilitate civil conversation.

The manner by which they select this youth will be left up to the educator and lawyer. The educator may have several students in mind and they might be interviewed for this opportunity. The position as a panelist is an honor as well as a learning opportunity and will be looked upon favorably by future employers and potential colleges. The youth would most likely be a high school student, but might also be a college student or even an accomplished 8th grade student.

4. This committee of three will work to select the best venue within your county for this event, looking for a place that is low or no cost, and central and accessible for all ages and abilities. It might be a local theatre, a school, a library, or an institution of higher learning. The committee will decide upon (a) a date during 2019 for the showing; and (b) a time frame--the movie could be shown, for example, all at once on a single day or over the course of two evenings.

5. Using the promotional materials provided with the *Lights, Camera, Civics!* logo and wording, this committee will promote the event and provide registration access via email or other methods. New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education ("NHICE") hopes for approximately 50 participants of diverse ages and backgrounds at each gathering. Promotions will happen (for example) within schools, senior centers, and law firms, through local papers, and via social media and email blasts. These promotions should begin at least 1 month prior to the date of the showing, and should continue weekly until the time of the discussion. NHICE and New Hampshire Humanities will also help promote the event, and ask to be provided with 6 weeks' advance notice.

6. A plan should be made by the committee of three to provide food to participants. The provision of food is particularly important for increasing the likelihood that young people will attend. Consider soliciting donations from local restaurants, having the meal/s sponsored by a local law firm/s, having the youth plan offerings from a local high school/community college with a culinary program, or doing some baking in-house. When advertising, be careful not to advertise the food as a meal if the food simply constitutes a snack, and consider letting attendees know that they may bring their own snacks, if they choose. If the film is shown on a single day, do not break for a meal; a lengthy break may result in people leaving at the break or before the discussion.

7. Please watch the film in advance of the program. It is recommended that the committee of three watch it together, but if that is not possible, each member should watch it individually. NHICE will provide a DVD of the film and will send materials to the committee of three.

8. Follow the discussion guidelines provided when planning the showing and discussion. Decide ahead of time which member of the committee will present and lead which parts of the program. Make sure the technology is in good working order work *ahead of time*. Make sure that participants (and planning committee members!) complete the evaluation form (included in this packet) and send back to Martha Madsen at: martha@constitutionallyspeakingnh.org.

9. Make sure the technology is in good working order work *ahead of time*. Closed captioning should be used for all movies presented. Ample portable microphones should be available so that all audience members can use speakers easily. Enlist the student team member to recruit other students who can act as runners during the discussion sections and bring microphones to speakers.

10. A simple power point is recommended. At the outset of the program, show a slide with the name of the initiative ("*Lights, Action, Civics!*"), the panelists' names and titles, and the NHICE and NH Humanities logos. Go to <http://www.nhhumanities.org/humanities-go-host-toolkit> for an example of a display slide. Then, use the power point to post the introductory questions, and the one or two discussion questions. Use very short sentences in your slides; one idea or question per slide.

11. Consider creating a program guide that includes the names of the panelists, their titles, and their email addresses; the collective commitments; and the agenda for the program; and the organizations involved in creating and funding the event. Review the program guide created for the January 27, 2019 kick-off event for ideas (available on NHICE's website).

12. Make sure that participants (and planning committee members!) complete the evaluation form (included in the tool-kit) and return to Martha Madsen at: martha@constitutionallyspeakingnh.org.

Thank you very much for your participation in this project!

This project was made possible with support from New Hampshire Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Learn more at www.nhhumanities.org.

