

Divided We Fall

College Teacher Discussion Guide

Written by:

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1. Who/what *surprised* you the most in this film?
2. Whose story/background did you relate to most (or, is most similar to your own)? What about their subsequent participation surprised or influenced you?
3. Write your own "headline" to sum up what we witness in this film / social-experiment.
4. What role did *setting* play in the tone and/or content of the conversations? (Specifically, consider moments "in the studio" v. "at table" together.) How did *group makeup* impact this? (E.g. What did you notice about the segregated v. integrated meals? How about the all-male / all-female breakouts? Or the one-on-one dyads?)
5. Answer for yourself some of the questions posed to the cast:
 - a. *What is your most proud moment as an American?*
 - b. *What is your least proud moment as an American?*
 - c. *Who is in your vision of the 'We' (in "We the People")?*
 - d. Discuss your responses with a family member, neighbor or acquaintance -- especially one whose political views differ from yours. *Listen* to their responses.
6. Considering the "frame" activity (in which cast members made a frame with their fingers to demonstrate that *what we've chosen to focus on limits what we can see*), give one or more concrete examples of how this concept applies to *your* life. --BONUS!-- Discuss a moment when you've "shifted your frame". What caused or influenced this shift?
7. In the film, cast members of different races frequently share similar views -- while members of similar racial backgrounds repeatedly disagree on their views and experiences. Talk about a moment in which one or more participants' views on race surprised, influenced, or resonated with you.
8. One participant ("JJ") highlights that disagreeing with another person on *one thing* does not mean you disagree with them on *everything*. Talk about someone you respect and/or love, with whom you have disagreed.
9. By the end of the weekend, both casts came together across ideological divides to propose astonishingly similar "solutions" for the country. What specific elements or processes do you think account for this? How can we replicate them in our society?
10. The show closes with participants hugging each other and expressing their gratitude, and even love, for each other. (Note: both casts have since scheduled "cast reunions" and have kept up the camaraderie.) What do you think accounts for this? Importantly: How can you/we promote similar outcomes in your/our social spheres?