

Divided We Fall

Middle School Discussion Guide

Written by:

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1. Compare and contrast two cast members from the Chicago cast that had the greatest variance or similarity, based on their response to the question that asked them about their proudest moment as an American. What do you think most contributed to this difference?
2. Compare and contrast two cast members from the Massachusetts cast that had the greatest variance or similarity, based on their response to the question that asked them about their proudest moment as an American. What do you think most contributed to this difference?
3. In what ways did the Chicago and Massachusetts cast members relate ideologically, regarding their responses to being asked about their least proud moment as Americans. In other words, how were the responses by the Democrats/Liberals and Republicans/Conservatives, whether in Chicago or Massachusetts, consistent with their political party's beliefs?
4. When discussing their least proud moments as Americans, Ernest and Kimberlee clashed over Obama's presidency. What was the nature of this dispute and what lapse in communication do you think led to this verbal conflict?
5. Lynda appeared to have a paradigm shift regarding her word choice when referring to Mexican immigrants. Explain what this shift consisted of and whether you think this would lead to a broader political shift regarding her voting stance on this issue.
6. What different stances on gun control most intrigued you as a viewer? Which perspective challenged you the most? Why?
7. How did the tone of the conversation shift when the cast members ate together based on their political ideology? How did the tone shift, or remain constant, when they ate with members from an opposing view?
8. How did perspective, within the contextual framework of their upbringing, inspire the truths that cast members believed in regarding gun control or immigration? Highlight one person from each cast and elaborate.
9. The topic of truth and knowledge came up frequently in the show. Pick one person from each cast whose truth you most relate to. Explain why.
10. At the conclusion of the show, many cast members were able to find commonalities with each other. What role did conversation play in these revelations? Do you believe that this same strategy could be employed to help Americans find common ground to solve the issues that have heightened as a result of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement? Explain how.