

## Divided We Fall

### Substitute Teacher Discussion Guide

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*Questions that are asked on video, when appropriate, could be asked of your participants.*

Ask your participants for their own answers before showing video answers.

Question on video:

What was the time when you felt most proud to be an American?

- Do you find common answers among you?
- What common answer or themes do you notice in the video answers?

Question on video:

What was your least proud moment as an American?

- What do you expect from Americans? How should Americans act (in everyday life; when we are threatened; when we're asked for help, e.g.)?
- What do you think people mean when they say, "I voted for Trump—or Obama in 2012—because America needed a change? What kind of changes? Why?"

Some family dynamics have changed. One woman on the video said sharing a meal at a table was a way to begin to know about each other and care for each other.

- What do you think about that statement?
- Does your family sit at a table at some meal of day?  
If so, do you think it's important?  
If not, do you think it makes any difference?

A woman in the video talked of working three jobs when she was 19 and a single mom, and she still works three jobs at age 50 to make ends meet.

- Do you think that's a common situation in America?
- What could help that situation? Government? Businesses? Political Parties?
- Do political parties mean anything to you, as in Republican, Democratic or Independent?
- Do you think we need the Parties to make America work?
- Does putting labels on groups, like Liberals or Conservatives, tell us anything about the individuals who are part of those groups?

What Is Truth? What Is Fact?

- What are some of your truths? (*narrator should give examples of their own truths*)
- Tell us some facts.
- Given all the media available 24-7, how do you find out what is a fact and what is a lie or a twisted truth?

Do the “perspective exercise” with them and discuss the point of the exercise.

*(Examples: If you live in a small town, then visit a big city, how might your perspective of what people do in a typical day change? If you're a guy and always talk to boys about girls and never actually talk to a girl, how might your perspective change if you started talking to girls also?)*

- How have your own personal experiences contributed to the truths/beliefs you have?
- How might those views be changed? (*truths might be about a certain race, a religion, nerds, jocks, e.g.*)
- Have you had experiences that changed one of your long-held beliefs?

#### Immigration

- What do you know about immigration? Do you know how immigrants can come here legally?
- Do we need to keep people from coming to America illegally/undocumented? Why? If we need to stop them, how can that be done?
- Should employers who hire undocumented immigrants be punished?

#### Gun Control

- Should anyone who wants a gun be able to get one?
- Are there any guns that should be illegal for the average person?
- Do you think banning assault weapons would cut down on mass shootings?
- A 2017 Gallup poll found that 96% of Americans favored background checks.
- What is your reaction to that?

#### Preamble to the Constitution

- What things does The Preamble say the Constitution wants for America(ns)?
- Has this been achieved?
- If not, how can we move closer to achieving that goal?

What do all or most Americans have in common with each other?