



Movie Conversation Cafés

Adapted from "Community Conversations" by Paul Born

Things to do Ahead of Time:

- ✓ Choose a topic that you would like to discuss and select a movie that engages this topic. Consider some questions ahead of time about the movie and topic you have selected.
- ✓ Choose a time and location
- ✓ Advertise and send out invitations to your Movie Conversation Café.

Recommended Time: Evening or weekend; ensure you have at least an hour for discussion, plus whatever time you need to watch the film

Recommended Location: School classroom or library

Recommended Materials:

- ✓ Brown paper table covers
- ✓ Pens and markers
- ✓ Sign-in sheet
- ✓ Nametags
- ✓ Copy of the film and a device for playing it
- ✓ Large screen or projector
- ✓ Movie snacks

Set-Up:

- ✓ Show up early to set up tables and chairs. Each table should have room for approximately 5 people. Tape down brown paper onto tables and make sure each table has at least one dark marker for writing on the brown paper.
- ✓ As participants enter, provide them with a name tag and have them sign-in with their name and contact information if they wish to be invited to more events in the future.
- ✓ Welcome all of the participants and have them find a seat. Introduce the process and the movie.
- ✓ Enjoy the film together as a group.
- ✓ Review the format of the Conversation Café process (you may choose to shorten the discussion length to make up for the extra time for viewing the film)
 - Clarify the ending time to respect people's time.
 - Review Agreements (see next page) and ask guests to commit to these.
 - Present the group with the some information about the topic you will be discussing.
 - Have each table elect a leader to take notes about the group's discussion. The leader will also be in-charge of moderating the conversation and ensuring that everyone has a chance to speak.
- ✓ Provide the first question and allow the group 30-45 minutes to discuss this question while the leader records responses.



- ✓ After providing 30-45 minutes for the first question, have each group get up and go to a new table while the table leaders stay behind.
- ✓ Participants continue the conversation with new groups and each table leader shares their notes with the new group.
- ✓ Repeat this exercise with your second question
- ✓ After doing this twice, take time with your participants to debrief and allow people to share what they learned with the whole group.

Some websites to check out when choosing a film:

- www.tamarackcommunity.ca/g4s23.html - Provides a list of films and reviews and how they relate to community.
- www.kids-in-mind.com - Provides a list of comprehensive movie ratings specifically intended for selecting films that are appropriate for the right age group.