



HOME SCREENING FILM CLUB QUESTIONS

“America’s destiny is not power, but light.”

Benjamin Franklin

Thank you for participating in a home screening of *Committing Poetry in Times of War*. The goal of the Commit Poetry project is to encourage people to live a community based poetic life committed to creativity, imagination and rhythmic grace. Therefore we urge you to use your screening event to stimulate both discussion and creativity. The following talking points can serve as a guideline to explore many of the issues raised by the film. But don’t stop there. Invite everyone to bring a poem, original or otherwise, to share with the group. You’ll be amazed at the magic it brings to the moment.

TALKING POINTS

1. Are you aware of or have you experienced any restrictions placed on demonstrations or free speech or art in your community? How was it resolved? How did it make you feel?
2. Classroom Free Speech
 - a. Where do you draw the line?
 - b. What poems from the film would be able to be read or shown at your high school? Should they be restricted and why?
 - c. What about profanity? Controversy? School Violence? Drugs?
3. Teacher opinions
 - a. Is the Teacher able to have opinions and share them with the class? Does this model for them a thinking citizenry or is it undue influence? How can it be done safely and respectfully?
 - b. Would your answer change if it was a clear “illegal” war? What if it was opposition to war crimes?
 - c. How did the Teacher who had an anti-war sign posted in the window of the classroom facing the street make you feel?
 - d. Should a teacher be able to keep up student art work at his or her discretion?
 - e. Some indicate that if you teach peace you have to teach the other side? What is the other side to peace? How can peace be used effectively in a classroom or should it be?

4. What was the objective of the police department on the March 20, 2003 protest portrayed in the film? How else could have the police handled it? What options does your community have to address protests? Do you have an ordinance allowing spontaneous protests without a permit?
5. The film is meant to be a visceral poem its in presentation? Did you find the presentation entertaining? How could it be more effective? What film techniques did you like and why? If you were the director or editor what changes would you have made?
6. What feelings does the film leave you with? Are you compelled to action in some way either politically or creatively?

Order a pack of DVD's of the film at wholesale price to sell or hand out at your party so that people can pass the message of *Committing Poetry* on to others.

5 packs \$80 plus shipping

10 pack \$140 plus shipping

Includes the lyrics of the poems!

With the 10 pack the Film's producer is available for a conference call with your Film Gathering to answer questions and talk about the making of the film. Call 541-359-3596 to place an order or to schedule the call.