

FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE FOR FILM SCREENING



THANK YOU FOR SCREENING “FROM OUR PERSPECTIVES”

Welcome and thank you for hosting this “**From Our Perspectives,**” an EdChoice film. The discussions the film sparks in your school, church, community, and beyond will help move the needle for children everywhere, providing greater opportunities for their futures.

WHY DID WE CREATE THIS FILM?

“From Our Perspectives” is intended to spark change through vital conversations surrounding education in America -- particularly for Black children. The film does so through conversations between Black educators, changemakers, advocates, church members, and advocates. These conversations look at the history of Black education in American K-12 schools and delve into where we are today regarding representation in teaching staff and curriculum, cultural differences, and opportunities.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THIS FILM?

You can choose to show this film in its entire three parts, or screen just a single component. The film is designed to be shown as a whole piece or stand-alone individually for each of the three parts. During discussions among Black community and education leaders, students share their experiences with schools that they were able to attend due to choice programs. Here’s what you can expect from each section:

The Barber Shop: During discussions among Black men in a barber shop, questions about the current state of education for Black students are asked and discussed. Host and moderator Curtis Valentine speaks with Black men about the history of education for Black students, delving into the intended and unintended consequences of *Brown v. The Board of Education*. The men discuss the lack of representation of teachers of color and the uneven discipline within schools, tracing it back to a lack of cultural inclusion in curriculum, leadership, and classroom discussions.

The Beauty Shop: Host and moderator Naomi Shelton speaks with Black women about the gaps in opportunities for Black students at traditional public schools. The women -- ranging from a former state lawmaker to a homeschool advocate -- discuss how tension outside and within the Black community impedes students’ chance to learn at their full potential.

The Restaurant: The men and women from the barber shop and beauty shop gather around a table to partake in soul food and discuss how members of the Black community can better work together for students’ benefit.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The film’s goal is to bring awareness and ignite critical thinking when it comes to the educational status quo in K-12 schools, particularly how it relates to Black students. These aims are intertwined in the film through:

- **Examining** the current lack of educational opportunities for Black children in traditional public schools
- **Analyzing** “how we got here,” including a discussion of historical perspectives on education for Black children in America
- **Highlighting** the strengths of Black togetherness and community, including the church’s role in supporting Black children and their families
- **Asking** how members of the Black community can do a better job advocating for choice and opportunities for their children

ABOUT CHOICE EDCHOICE.ORG

The EdChoice mission is to advance **educational freedom** and choice for all as a **pathway to successful lives** and a stronger society. EdChoice accomplishes this through **research and thought leadership, training, outreach, and focused state investment initiatives.**

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to understanding and pursuing a K–12 education system that empowers every family to choose the schooling environment that fits their children’s needs best.

PLANNING FOR YOUR SCREENING EVENT

The themes of community run deeply throughout the film -- and will spill over into your event. Here are some tips to ensure your event is well-attended and received:

PLANNING THE EVENT:

1. Use EdChoice provided materials to create messaging surrounding your event that will catch the eyes of potential attendees, including social media copy, graphics, and the film teaser.
2. Survey your potential attendees to find a time and date that work the best; you can create a Google Form, send out a paper survey or simply ask people to email you their availability.
3. Share your event details far and wide -- in newsletters, through email messaging, social media, bulletin boards, or anywhere your potential attendees will see details.
4. Reshare event details several times in the weeks leading up to your event.
5. Arrange for childcare when possible, so parents can attend without the added concern of finding childcare.
6. Alert local media about your event and, when appropriate, invite them to it.

PREPARING FOR THE EVENT:

1. Conduct a dry run of technology beforehand, including streaming the film and audio components.
2. Send a reminder for registrants the day before the event and a few hours prior.

DURING THE EVENT:

1. Create a space of psychological safety, where attendees feel as if they can speak up -- and share this goal before the film begins.
2. Allow time for discussion at the end of the film -- 30 minutes minimum is recommended.
3. Have participant discussion guides ready to hand out
4. Welcome everyone - reference page 1 in their guides, which explains the objectives for the film and discussion Reference page 3 of the participant guide, which lists meet the hosts/panel, headshots, and brief description
5. Begin the section of the film you are showing
6. Have film discussion points and potential conversation starters ready to go(also listed in participant guides)

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION

The Barber Shop

1. Black Americans have a long history of educational excellence, built by them and for them. In what ways do current public school systems undermine this?
2. The Brown v. the Board of Education ruling had unintended consequences, including dismantling the Black-created and maintained educational system. Discuss the negative fallout of this ruling and how it has impacted the current state of public schools.
3. Only 7 percent of public school educators are Black; only 2 percent are Black men. Discuss why this is often at odds with Black students excelling.
4. The role of Black fathers and guardians is vital to the home and education experience for Black children. Discuss the ways this can improve in the current systems.
5. The men in the film talk about how the current government-run educational system benefits adults more than students. Discuss this point of view and other similar systems.
6. Discuss how families can advocate for better educational opportunities for their Black children.



POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION

The Salon

1. Why do you think advocating for educational choice is so unpopular - even among Black families?
2. The former lawmaker on the panel talked about how “liberal white women” were her biggest opponents regarding educational choice. Why do you think this group of Americans, who say they stand for progress, push back against school choice?
3. In what ways have you experienced members of the Black community pushing back against progressive ideas, such as school choice and prison reform?
4. Have you ever experienced a time when you advocated for your child and were dismissed? Explain and delve into “why” you think that happened.
5. What types of resources do you feel are vital for families to feel empowered about educational paths for their children?



POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION

The Restaurant

1. Soul food brings Black families together. Discuss the “why” of this -- and its significance in the Black community.
2. Churches have long been a backbone of Black communities, not just for spiritual health. How have you seen churches and church leaders strengthen the lives of Black families?
3. At family or church gatherings, everyone pitches in to serve everyone and every taste. Why do you think this community spirit is lacking when it comes to education?
4. Food is a necessity to live, just as education is a necessity to excel. Discuss ways you have seen education take a backseat to other issues and why you think that happens.
5. What new information did you learn from these educational advocates in the film,, and what old beliefs of yours were questioned?



WRAPPING UP YOUR EVENT

Congratulations on a successful screening of “**From Our Perspectives.**” Before your attendees leave, ensure you have shared:

1. Your contact information or that of your organization for further discussion
2. Information on visiting EdChoice.org to learn more about school choice options and advocacy groups

EdChoice looks forward to planning our next event together!



[EDCHOICE.ORG](https://EdChoice.org)