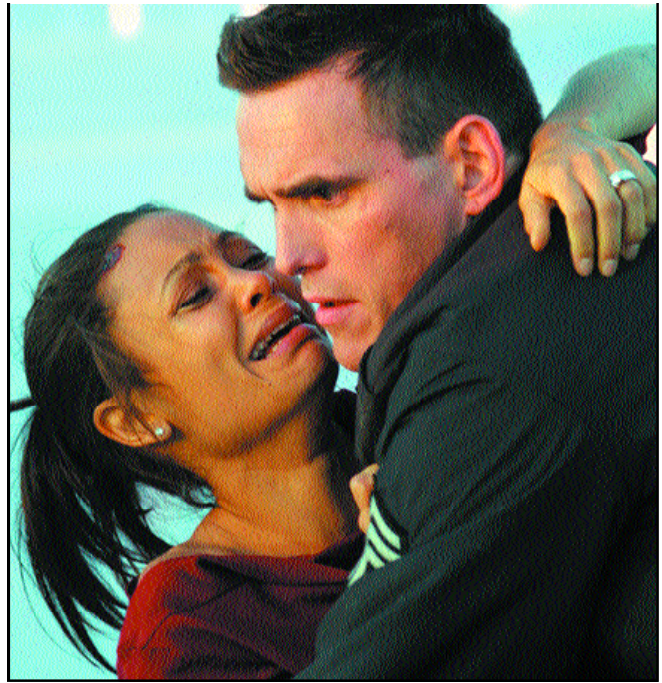


Movie Discussion Guide

Crash

“You think you know who you are. You have no idea.”

The city of Los Angeles is shown as a place where people think and move fast. The cast of characters seem to speed through their lives without always considering the connections and consequences of their actions. This candid film shows how a very diverse group of individuals “crash” into one another and leave painful marks behind. Watch and see just how much of what one feels, says, and does can impact so many others around them.



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CRASH

Programming Suggestions

This discussion guide is designed to facilitate educational programs after viewing the film CRASH. Its purpose is to generate discussion based on social issues found within the movie and for program participants to reflect on themes that may be pertinent to them. Therefore, there are no “right” or “wrong” answers to questions in this guide.

The discussion facilitator may choose to utilize one of the following activities as a means of developing discussion:

- Use the following acronyms in the publicity for a bulletin board or follow up to the movie:
 - **C**reating **R**espect **A**nd **S**haping **H**umanity - Have residents come up with ways they can work within the hall/campus community to bring about respect for those who are different from them.
 - **C**rushing **R**acism, **A**nti-Semiteism, **S**exism and **H**eterosexism - Have residents sign a contract to confront comments, jokes, or actions that insult a particular group of people based on color, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Invite a staff member from the Career Services office to discuss the benefits of and realities about diversity in the workplace.
- Provide participants with a list of all the main characters in the film. Have participants individually place the characters on a continuum from least ethical to most ethical. Then have participants work together to create the same continuum for the whole group.
- Do some research on the emphasis certain cultures put on certain values (i.e. family, education, time, work, prayer, etc.). Present that information to your residents and have them discuss their own values. Encourage them to see that even though there are certain values in various cultures, people in similar cultures may have different value systems too (Therefore, everyone really is different).
- Have one of your faculty members come in and present a program on ethics. Work with them to help create several scenarios applicable to the residence halls, classroom environments, or possible workplace settings students may find themselves in one day.
- Draw a diagram with the help of your residents that shows the connections between the characters. Have them discuss the possible reality of such close connections and possible impacts upon one's life.

An important consideration in choosing any facilitation option is that all students have an opportunity to participate. Be aware that many of the topics addressed in the film are not often talked about in public settings. Students who attend the program may have varying degrees of comfort level with the discussion.

ISSUES

DIVERSITY
ETHICS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Did you like the movie? Why or why not?
- Discuss each character's relevance in the story.
- Why do you think Rick, the District Attorney, wanted to cover up the fact that his car was stolen by two black men? Were his ideas for "handling" the situation appropriate? Why or why not?
- Should Tommy (police officer) have done anything differently to stop Officer John Ryan from treating the Thayer's the way he did when he pulled them over? What should he have done?
- Name the different stereotypes you heard in this movie? Are they ones you have heard before? Is stereotyping a bad practice? What are the reasons why people use stereotypes? Does everyone stereotype?
- Have you ever been stereotyped? How did it make you feel?
- Where do you think Officer John Ryan's feelings about black people came from?
- What do you think pushed Officer John Ryan to risk his own life to save Mrs. Thayer?
- What were the benefits to detective Graham Waters taking the DA's offer to lie in exchange for cleaning up his brother's police record? What were the consequences of his decision?
- Reflect on the statement that television producer Cameron Thayer made to Anthony: "you embarrass me, you embarrass yourself." What do you think were Thayer's motives?
- Do you believe that citizens should be able to purchase and possess guns? Why or why not? If so, what stipulations do you think there should be on purchasing and possessing a gun?
- What could have happened in Jean's life that made her so angry? What made her realize that her housekeeper, Maria, was her best friend? What might have kept her from seeing this and treating her with respect all along?
- What do you think made Anthony decide not to sell the refugees to the chop shop owner and release them to freedom?
- Who was responsible for the death of Graham Waters' brother? Officer Hansen (Tommy)? Graham? His mother? Himself? Please discuss your reasons.
- When the Thayer's were pulled over by Officer John Ryan, Mr. Thayer chose to apologize to avoid being arrested? What were the consequences? Do you think he made the right decision? Why or why not?
- This movie is set in Los Angeles, a city rich in diversity? Do you think that an area with such diversity would be more open or close minded about differences? Why?
- Is it appropriate to ask someone their ethnic background? Why or why not? Would you prefer to have someone ask you about your background or assume it?
- What do you think caused Anthony to be so defensive about being black?
- What lessons, if any, did each of the characters learn? What lessons in life do you think teach people to be more accepting of others differences?
- Which character was the most unethical? Why?
- Which character was the most ethical? Why?
- What lesson did young Lara teach to Farhad when he tried to shoot her father for not fixing the lock and the store being vandalized?
- Do you think that opinions like Officer John Ryan can be changed? How?
- Which connection(s) between characters was most interesting? Please share your thoughts.
- What character(s) did you like the least? Why?
- What character(s) did you like the most? Why?
- How did language barriers create problems in this film? How can we help to prevent such misunderstandings?