

Character and Life Skills

Video Title: **Citizenship, Inside Out Series**

Lesson Title: **See You In the Movies**

Grade Level: **Middle School**



Project and Purpose

Students watch and review films that depict good citizenship.

Essential Question

What can we learn about citizenship from films?

Materials

- Access and ability to watch portions of or a full viewing of a film about citizenship (possible titles are listed)
 - Sample reviews of films: teacher should collect current reviews from the site Rotten Tomatoes (www.rottentomatoes.com) or from www.CommonSenseMedia.org
 - Films About Citizenship list
- Note:** If possible, arrange to have copies of films available in the school, such as in the library, or arrange a time for students to watch one of the films. Note that legally, films can be shown in school for non-profit, educational purposes, but it is ILLEGAL to stream and send films to students' homes via Internet service
- Film Review Preparation worksheet
 - Writing tools and/or computer writing program

Procedure

1. Pair students up and have them take two minutes each to talk to a partner about a movie or a film they have seen recently.
2. At the end of two minutes, ask a few volunteers to share what their partners told them about a film. Explain that this is the root of a film review.
3. A film review is a way for someone to describe a film and its stars and its story to help other people decide if they want to see it themselves.
4. Distribute or post sample film reviews and ask students about the commonalities they notice among the reviews. They should, at the very least, point out how each review talks about characters, setting, plot, and conflict without giving away the ending.
5. Revisit the theme of citizenship from the Inside Out video by the same title. Explain that there are myriad films about the theme of citizenship, and perhaps they have seen one or more. Read or post the film list and have students discuss how citizenship is an integral part any of the films with which they are familiar.

6. Tell students that they will write a film review focused on how the theme of citizenship is exemplified in one of the films. If possible, show a film to the class or arrange for a time to do so. You can always assign this for homework and extend the time period for writing the review.
7. Distribute the Film Review Preparation worksheet for students to organize their thoughts about a film, and then have them write a final copy of their review and submit.

Conclusion

Discuss: What can we learn about citizenship from films?

Extension

- Have students film their reviews.
- Have students interview each other about their film reviews.

Notes

[illegible]

Worksheet: Film Review Preparation

Title of the film	
Genre	
What is the story about? What is the basic plot line? Include the conflict but NOT the resolution!	
If it is based on a book, list the title and the author	
The setting of the film (location and time period)	
The actors in the film	
Leads (main roles) are played by...	
Your favorite character or moment in the film and why	
How this film depicts what it means to be a good citizen	
Recommend this film to someone: who would like it and why?	

Rating

- (Five stars) The best!
- (Four stars) Very good!
- (Three stars) Okay
- (Two stars) Poor
- (One star) Truly awful

Worksheet: Suggested Films About Citizenship

Amazing Grace

Because of Winn Dixie

The Blind Side

A Bug's Life

Coach Carter

Finding Nemo

Fly Away Home

Follow Me, Boys

Ghandi

It's a Wonderful Life

Kinshasha Symphony

The Milagro Beanfield War

Norma Rae

October Sky

Pay It Forward

Radio

Remember the Titans

Saint Misbehavin': The Wavy Gravy Story

Stand and Deliver

We Are Marshall

Whale Rider