

FLINT Discussion Guide

Flint is the gripping retelling of a crisis that shook a nation and shines a light on the whistleblowers who exposed the biggest environmental scandal of our generation. Lee, Anne Walters, Melissa Mays and Nayyirah Shariff join forces after discovering that the drinking water in Flint, Michigan is contaminated, resulting in a slew of devastating medical problems for people in Flint. When their claims go unheeded, they band together to expose the wrongdoings committed by reckless government officials whose carelessness caused irrevocable harm to the lives of its residents. Golden Globe®-winner, Academy Award® and Grammy®-nominee Queen Latifah (Star) also stars and executive produces.

This is an important story to explore, providing insights into how and why the crisis happened and how citizens intervened. *Flint* can inspire valuable conversations about the responsibility of government, political process, and how individuals and groups can organize for social good.



LIFETIME

CURRICULUM LINKS

Flint would be useful for students in government, politics, media, current events, environmental science and other courses. It is appropriate for high school and college students as well as general audiences.

DISCUSS

Students can answer these questions in large or small groups or can respond to one or more questions in essay format.

1. Why do you think government officials in Flint denied that there was a problem for so long?
2. What responsibility do you think city and state governments have to protect the health of their constituents?
3. How did Narriyrah, Melissa, LeeAnne and other activists help get attention for the water problem in Flint? Why do you think they joined forces to make change instead of working independently?
4. What strategies do you think were most effective in bringing attention to the water crisis in Flint?
5. What are some ways the water crisis in Flint could have been avoided? What changes could cities make to avoid these kinds of problems in the future?
6. What would you do if you learned your water was contaminated? Who would you notify?

SPREAD THE WORD FOR FLINT

Lifetime has partnered with the United Way of Genesee County on a PSA featuring the cast of *Flint*. Funds raised will go to much needed short-term, immediate relief, including purchasing filters and bottled water, and more long-term health and development needs for the children of Flint and their families. To donate or for more information, go to <http://www.unitedwaygenesee.org/lifetime>.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Official website:

<http://www.mylifetime.com/movies/flint>

Official Hashtag: #FlintMovie

Twitter: @LifetimeTV

Facebook: @LifetimeTV

Instagram: @LifetimeTV

Premieres October 28 at 8/7c

EXPLORE

1. **What Happened in Flint: Further Research:** Through their own research and reading, students can reconstruct a timeline of the Flint water crisis. What happened when, and who was responsible? Students can create essays, visual presentations or other presentations about the Flint water crisis and its outcomes.
2. **Safe Drinking Water Act.** This act was originally passed in 1974 to protect the nation's drinking water supply. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-safe-drinking-water-act> to learn more about the act. Why was the act important and how does it connect with the Flint story? Students can write a short synopsis of the act and its uses.
3. **TTHM's.** What are TTHM's and why is it important to understand them? Visit <http://www.tthmalert.com/> to learn more. In short visual presentations or in discussions, students can explore the science behind TTHM's.
4. **Water: A Human Right.** The activists featured in this film talk about water as a human right. Explore this concept by writing an op-ed, short paper or in discussion.



THE FLINT WATER CRISIS: BACKGROUND

Background:

Flint is a city of approximately 100,000 residents, over 40% of which live below the poverty line. According to the US Census Bureau, the median household income of Flint is \$24,862, while the median household income for the rest of Michigan is \$49,576. The city is 56.6% African-American.

Learn more about Flint here:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/flintcitymichigan/PST045216>

Review a timeline of the Flint water crisis here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/01/21/us/flint-lead-water-timeline.html>

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