

HOW TO CHOOSE FILMS FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



1. Find Your Why

It is important to articulate WHY you will use film in the classroom.

- To illustrate content or a difficult concept
- To fulfill a state or district requirement
- To support SEL
- To provide entertainment or a reward for meeting a challenge

Clearly understanding the reason for viewing makes it easier to articulate objectives or goals.

2. Limitations & Logistics

Identify the limitations and logistics of showing the film in your learning community.

- Are there specific platforms you can or cannot use?
- What are your technology challenges?
- Are there subjects that are off-limits?

By clearly understanding what is permissible in your community, you can be sure your efforts are successful and your learners benefit from the lesson.



3. Where to Find Films

In addition to the **Journeys in Film** library with free resources for recommended films, collect film suggestions from places like Vimeo Staff Picks, YouTube (Omletto is a great channel), New York Times Op-Docs, and New Yorker Films.

Consider creating a educator support group to share films, resources, and activity ideas.

Of course, it is recommended to watch a film in its entirety before you screen in it with learners.

4. How to Evaluate

Revisit your WHY and confirm that the film aligns with your values and the learning objectives.

Verify that the film and activities are appropriate for your learning community's standards. Address potential concerns ahead of time.

Ask yourself if the film provides a “window or mirror” to your learners’ lives. Be sure to include both in your film curation over the year.

