

WE THE FUTURE:

Discussion Guide

Use these discussion questions to explore different topics and themes in *We the Future*. We recommend also taking a copy of the *Community Agreements Toolkit* if using with a group.



Identity

- How do you identify?
- Who or what first taught you about other identities?
- How much does a person's identity impact their everyday life?
- How can you leverage your perceived advantages/disadvantages to take action?

Representation

- What does "representation" mean to you?
- Share a story about a time you felt seen or heard.
- What identities tend not to be represented in society?
- Why does it matter to see yourself reflected in the world?

Art for Social Change

- Share a story of your first experience with art.
- What inspires you to be creative?
- How have you seen art used to convey a message, represent a movement, or be a tool for change? (could be visual, musical, literary)
- How can art reclaim space for people who have been excluded from those spaces?
- How might we use art to address an issue specific to our community?

Climate Change

- Talk about your first memory of nature.
- How have you noticed/seen/been affected by climate change?
- What was your reaction when you first became aware about climate change?
- What's the right balance between the culture we are accustomed to (cars, plastics, heat/power, and more) and taking care of the planet for our future and future generations?
- What is a habit you can change to make a difference in the environment?

Prison Reform

- When you've made a mistake in the past, what's helped you grow and learn from those experiences?
- Have you ever done something that could be considered a crime? How would life be different for you if you had been sent to jail (or not) for that behavior?
- What is the goal of the justice system? How well does it work?
- What values should guide the criminal justice system?

Youth Voice & Vote

- Who or what first taught you about voting? What did you learn?
- What motivates/discourages you to go to the polls?
- Why might someone call the voting system in the US (or where you live) flawed or imperfect?
- What can you do to change people's perspectives about voting?

Refugees and Asylees

- What does a welcoming community look like to you?
- What was your initial response when you first heard about the Muslim ban?
- What does a nation's response to refugees say about its values?
- Share a story of a time you felt welcomed in a new place or somewhere away from home.



Family Separation

- How important is family to you?
- As a child/caregiver, were you ever separated from your child/caregiver? How did that make you feel?
- What is a situation that might make someone move their family and take on the risks of doing so, including the possibility of being separated from family members?
- What's one step we can take as a nation to make sure families remain together while addressing the ongoing border situation?

Disability Advocacy

- What comes to mind when you hear "Disability Justice"?
- How does society define your identity and how do you?
- Words matter; disability, differently abled, special...which terms do you hear related to persons with disabilities, which do you prefer and why?
- Look around - how inclusive is our space for those with disabilities? What could be done to improve it?

Gun Violence

- What makes you feel safe? What do you do when you feel unsafe?
- How does your race affect how you experience safety?
- What is the right balance between civil liberties/freedoms (2nd amendment) and safety?
- What would a society look like where all communities feel safe? What would it take to get there?

LGBTQ+ Justice

- What makes you feel accepted and valued?
- In your community, who tends to be the target of bias or discrimination?
- How might society honor people's religious belief while respecting the dignity of LGBTQ+ people?
- How could you make school or work more inclusive for all communities?

Literacy

- Choose one word to describe your relationship with books.
- Who or what has influenced your view of reading?
- What is the role of literacy in being able to participate in society?
- What can we do to promote literacy for everyone?

Legislative Reform

- Share a story about a defining moment in your life that pushed you into action.
- What was your first experience or awareness of injustice?
- What makes a law unjust?
- What law would you change/create?

Collective Changemaking

- What is a change you have seen in your lifetime?
- What is a change you would like to see in your lifetime?
- What benefits are there to collective change versus individual change?
- How could you help build momentum around collective change?