

THE AMERICAN DREAM IN WISCONSIN

A Wisconsin Academy Series

10/17 DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

Thank you for joining us for *The American Dream in Wisconsin*. We hope the following discussion questions will provide a framework for thinking and talking about this important subject. If you are watching the series [online through Facebook Live](#), we encourage you to send your questions to our presenter through the Facebook discussion thread or post questions to Facebook or Twitter with #AmericanDreamWI and we will try to share them with the speaker and audience during the Q&A session. Or you can e-mail your questions to questions@wisconsinacademy.org.

Contact Wisconsin Academy associate director Jason A. Smith at jsmith@wisconsinacademy.org or call 608-263-1692 x21 with general questions about how to best view and share the American Dream in Wisconsin series broadcasts with libraries and discussion groups.

Guidelines

- Try to refer to specific points/perspectives from the talk at hand before you offer your own insights.
- Respect others' rights to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. When you disagree, challenge or criticize the idea, not the person.
- Listen carefully to what others are saying even when you disagree. Comments that you make should reflect that you have paid careful attention to the discussion.
- Be courteous. Don't interrupt or engage in private conversations while others are speaking.
- Support and take responsibility for your statements. Use evidence and avoid generalization.
- Share responsibility for including all voices in the discussion. If you have much to say, try to hold back a bit; if you are hesitant to speak, look for opportunities to contribute.
- Recognize that we are all still learning. Be willing to change your perspective, and make space for others to do the same.

General Series Questions

- What does the American Dream mean to you?
- Does the American Dream unite or divide us?
- How has the American Dream changed during your lifetime; how has it remained the same?
- What do we all share as Americans that is central to the promise of the American Dream?

Cultivating the Dream Questions

- What constitutes a fair wage?
- Would you pay more for products from a company that guarantees a fair wage for employees?
- Would you buy products from a company that employs undocumented immigrant laborers? Explain why or why not.
- Are you the son/daughter of immigrants? How has immigration affected your life and community?

