Bridging Divides, Healing Communities
Youth Film Challenge

Choosing Your Topic

A lot of issues divide people locally and across the world. Here are some broad examples of divisive topics you might have wondered about (or even confronted) that you could explore in your film:


This list is by no means exhaustive; it’s meant to get you thinking about an issue that’s been on your mind. It’s important to find or create a specific story that highlights the issue of your choosing so that you can center your film on ways to bridge divisions.

How to Approach Your Topic

Here are some prompts to consider as a way to build a narrative that addresses your topic:

● What are the challenges to/opportunities for finding common ground on this issue?
● How is this issue addressed in your school? Is it being discussed? How would you document it?
● Is this issue discussed around your dinner table or within your family? Can you film a conversation about the topic?
● Make a music video on your issue, or do a spoken word/poetry reading/performance.
● Have there been incidents related to your issue in your community? Find a creative way to tell the story and how it was resolved. Express your opinion on the resolution.
● How are people treated in your school, community, church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship? Are all people made to feel welcome? Are differences supported?
● Is there a story about a friend, relative, or neighbor relevant to your issue you would like to put on film? Has this person shown resilience in the face of oppression?
● Do you know someone who has made positive changes in your community or the world at large? How did they do it? Can you film them in action? Or recreate their actions?
● What steps have you, your family, your teachers, and/or your religious leaders taken to assure everyone is welcome? Is everyone welcome?
● Have you ever had a conversation with someone and been surprised to learn their views on an issue seriously differ from your views? Did you change your opinion, or did they change their opinion? Did you agree to disagree? Did this experience alter your perception of that person? Can you re-enact that conversation and how it unfolded?
● Create a fictional narrative about your perfect world. If you can’t film it, can you draw it or create a digital animation?
• Can you show other ways that we can bridge divides through artistic creativity (i.e., painting, photography, music, dance, theater)?
• What does it look like to be an ally?
• What does it mean to walk in someone else’s shoes? What does that look like?
• Create a commercial or PSA (public service announcement) about your topic.
• Are there opportunities for young people to lead the way to address the issue?
• How are national and global events affecting you or your community? What impact do they have?
• Do you feel like you have a voice? Can you make a difference in the world? If so, how?
• Consider creating a history lesson. Since history repeats itself, how can we use history to teach us NOT to repeat mistakes? How does history help us understand and possibly change the present?