

Big Picture Learning and FableVision present...

Navigating Our Way

Discussion Guide

“Many highly talented, brilliant, creative people think they’re not — because the thing they were good at at schools wasn’t valued, or was actually stigmatized.”
— Sir Ken Robinson

Introduction:

We hope this discussion guide helps support you as you share the *Navigating Our Way (NOW)* film with your colleagues and community. It is no easy task to tackle the negative stigma around the trades — shifting the current “four-year college-for-all” mindset, while elevating the value of vocational education.



We expect there will be many who embrace the effort to value every kind of learning journey, but, just as likely, there may be those who may need time to reconsider their long-held beliefs and perceptions. Through the power of storytelling and conversation—and your role in sharing the film into your circles of influence—we firmly believe we can improve how the nation values, supports and resources all higher learning pathways, including CTE/trades.

This discussion guide can be used as a springboard to explore the film’s themes and messages, as well as spark ways to take action in your community to help ALL learners navigate their way to their full potential.

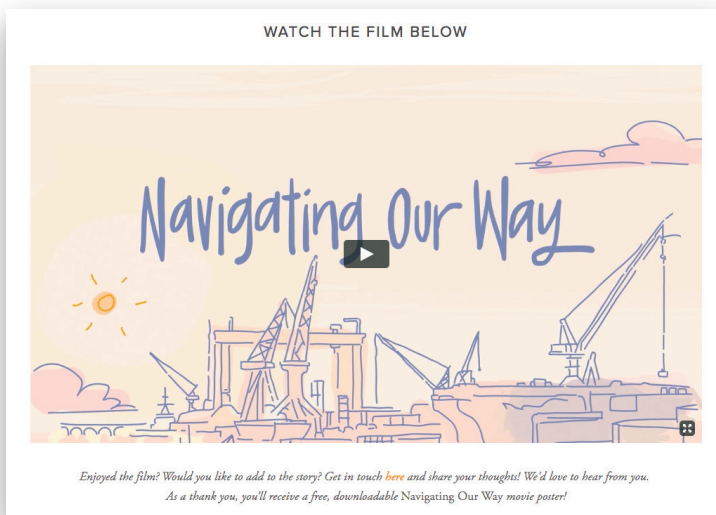


What You'll Need to Optimize Your Showing & Discussion:

- Laptop/mobile device with the *NOW* film. (Film available at www.navigatingourway.com)
- Video projection device & screen
- Good audio speakers
- *NOW* film questionnaire handout in this guide (pages 3 & 4). Print copies for your audience.

Format/Timing:

1. **5 mins.** Introduction: Welcome, introduce the film, thank audience for participating, and explain intent to discuss after watching.
2. **10 mins.** Background Primer: Share CHALLENGES page from the *NOW* website to convey needs and recommended solution. www.navigatingourway.com/challenge
3. **5 mins.** Film Presentation: Show film
4. **20-30 mins.** Discussion: Pass out *NOW* Discussion Guide. Facilitate group discussion or break into groups, and share out for further discussion, insights, reactions.
5. **10 mins.** Wrap Up/Next Steps: Thank audience and suggest they connect with the Navigating Our Way team to provide feedback and to sign up for more information. Encourage participants to submit input via the *NOW* website: www.navigatingourway.com/contact. Use the same form to let us know how things went!



“Navigating Our Way” Film - Guided Discussion:

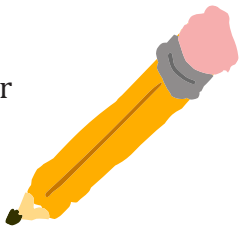


Through the lives of Seymour and Sylvie, the *Navigating Our Way* story illustrates the rigorous work and challenges involved in following one’s own life path — and whatever path of higher learning that best supports that journey. It is our hope that audiences that see the film will appreciate both choices these young people made as equally valid. By engaging in productive dialogue around the film, we hope more people will come to value and support highly skilled vocational pathways in the same way that society currently embraces four-year college.

On the following pages, we present suggested questions to help facilitate your discussion around the film. Of course, you know your audience best, so feel free to modify and adapt these questions in ways that work best for you.

1. While Sylvie doesn’t attend a four-year college, she does continue on her post-secondary learning for her trade certifications at a technical college. How can we get society to embrace this alternative to higher learning pathway as a valid or more appreciated one?
2. What did you think about Sylvie’s decision not to go to a four-year college? If you were concerned, why? Do you think society values the trades as much as it should/could? Does it overvalue the four-year college pathway?
3. If a young person came to you expressing an interest in pursuing the skilled trades vs. going to a four-year college, what would you tell them?
4. Have you or your children/students learned from adult mentors and friends outside of school? Who were/are they?
5. Was there a time in your own life that you felt social pressure to make a major decision about school, your career, or life? How did you make your decision? Were you happy with your choice? Are there factors you’d consider now that you didn’t then?
6. At the new school Sylvie and Seymour, students learn with their “heads, hearts, and hands together.” What do you think this means? Can we talk about human intelligence without talking about “the hand”?



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7. The quote at the end of the film by Tim Ingold says “It is not that the former only thinks and the latter only makes, but that the one makes through thinking and the other thinks through making.” What does this mean? What implications does this have on how we design our schools and curriculum?
 8. Did you notice that Sylvie went to post-secondary school to get her trade credentials? Are you aware that skills in the trade can be as rigorous as academic skills?
 9. Sylvie captures her ideas, sketches and plans in her notebook. Did you know how important are children’s and adult personal notebooks and what they are reading outside of school?
 10. Seymour and Sylvie’s childhood along the waterways of New Orleans inspire their interests and passions as adults. How does your environment and the people in it influence your interests and passions?
 11. Who in your community would benefit from seeing this film?
 12. Do you know if your community’s schools provide quality vocational education opportunities?
 13. Are you aware of the urgent need in the market for highly skilled workers? In what ways is your community supporting students to take advantage of these workplace opportunities?



14. How can you reach out to your community to share this message? Which federal/state/local municipal and school leaders do you think should know about the need to better support and fund high-quality vocational education/ CTE?
15. Would you be willing to join the NOW effort and help move this initiative forward? (Resources at www.navigatingourway.com/resources/)

For more information, contact us at www.navigatingourway.com



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www.bigpicturelearning.org www.fablevisionstudios.com

