

CHILDHOOD INTERRUPTED DISCUSSION GUIDE

About ***Childhood Interrupted*** – This film features interviews with current and formerly incarcerated youth, youth activists, parents, researchers and public officials who share their experiences and views, providing the most powerful arguments to date on why youth should not be tried, sentenced, or incarcerated in the adult criminal justice system. Their message is clear: Campaign for youth justice because the consequences aren't minor! (2010) 20 min. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onJCh5bylal>

How to Use This Film

This film can be used for several purposes. One important purpose is to raise awareness about the negative impact of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating children under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system. By raising awareness in your community, among your friends, co-workers, and family, you can be the catalyst for change. This film can also be used as an outreach tool to engage people in a discussion about your state laws pertaining the prosecuting children as adults. Here are some other ideas:

- Host a video screening at your house with your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers
- Watch the video with your children and their friends
- Arrange to host a screening at a neighborhood center, community meeting, or faith gathering
- Reach out to youth serving organizations to show the video to youth, parents, and staff
- Contact your local high school, community college, or university and offer to show the video
- Go to the Youth Justice Awareness Month section of www.cfyj.org and check out our How to Host a Film Screening guide for more ideas

Questions to Stimulate Thought and Discussion:

1. What were your immediate reactions to the film?
2. What shocked you the most?
3. What was the most interesting part of the film?
4. Was there anything you learned?
5. Did this film change your views? How?
6. Would you reform these laws? How?

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