



FILM FUN

Films can be a great way to educate the public on an issue – documentaries are often engaging and present topics in a relatable and interesting way... i.e., they are FUN! They can be a great way to start a conversation in the community.

Consider combining films with food and drink, or adding a short presentation or speaker afterwards. The Charleston League has contracted with theaters around town and gotten good crowds, but consider other venues as well – even someone's home can be set up for viewing films in a more personal setting!

Below are some films that you may be interested in considering; if you have other ideas, please share them! You can learn more about all of these films by searching for them on the web.

Just CTRL + click on any title or link in **RED** to go straight to the website.

Women's Equality Day.

- **[Girl Rising](#)** – Tells the stories of 9 girls from 9 different countries – each who face severe challenges and injustices – who are able to change their lives through education.
- **[Iron Jawed Angels](#)** – Defiant young activists take the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.
- **[Makers: Women Who Make America](#)** – Recounts the seminal events in the women's movement, but goes farther, by telling the surprising and unknown stories of women who broke down barriers in their own chosen fields, from the coal mines of West Virginia to the boardrooms of Madison Avenue, and looks at today, when a new generation is both defending and questioning the legacy of their mothers. (PBS, three hours)

Ethics Reform/Campaign Finance Reform.

- **[Pricele\\$\\$](#)** – A journey across America to answer a burning question: why are some of our government's policies, on basic issues like food and energy, so out-of-date . . . and can anything be done about it? Also, it costs millions to run for Congress... Where does it come from? What does it buy?
- **[Mr. Schneider Goes to Washington](#)** – Jonathan Schneider's stance is: "Because of their dependence on big business and special interests to finance their political futures, almost every decision the President, Vice-President and Members of Congress make is corrupted. From education to health care, social security to taxes, foreign policy to gas prices, Americans' interests repeatedly take a back seat to that of special interests." And he's not just going to sit home and take it anymore...

Criminal Justice Issues.

- **[The House I Live In](#)** – From the dealer to the narcotics officer, the inmate to the federal judge, a penetrating look inside America's criminal justice system, revealing the profound human rights implications of U.S. drug policy.
- **[Gideon's Army](#)** – Nearly 50 years since the landmark Supreme Court ruling Gideon vs. Wainwright that established the right to counsel, three courageous young lawyers in the Deep South try to revolutionize the way America thinks about indigent defense and make "justice for all" a reality.
- More ideas for films related to criminal justice issues here:
<http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/content.php?pid-81036&sid-606851>

Democracy and Civic Engagement.

- **[Electoral Dysfunction](#)** – Mo Rocca takes us through a humorous, irreverent, but nonpartisan look at Voting in America. For starters, where is the Electoral College—and does it have a winning football team? Why does America have 13,000 voting districts, each with its own set of rules? And why are residents of our nation's capital denied full voting rights?

(see reverse side)

- **Patriocracy** – *Patriocracy explores the extreme polarization in America that cripples the country from tackling its most serious problems. Whether it's the national debt, healthcare reform, the war on terror or illegal immigration, Americans are shouting at each other instead of listening to each other.*
- **I Voted?** – *(finishing production) A non-partisan film which looks at electronic voting machines, and asks "In America, what assurances do we have that ballots are recorded as intended?" *Special focus on South Carolina*

Healthcare.

- **The Waiting Room** – *The Waiting Room lays bare the struggle and determination of both a community and an institution coping with limited resources and no road map for navigating a health care landscape marked by historic economic and political dysfunction. It is a film about one hospital, its multifaceted community, and how our common vulnerability to illness binds us together as humans.*
- **Money and Medicine** – *Money & Medicine investigates the dangers the nation faces from runaway health care spending as well as the dangers patients face from over-diagnosis and over-treatment. In addition to illuminating the waste and overtreatment that pervade our medical system, Money & Medicine explores promising ways to reduce health care expenditures and improve the overall quality of medical care. (PBS)*

Environment/Climate Change.

- **Do the Math** – *Chronicles climate crusader Bill McKibben as he works with a rising global movement in a David-vs-Goliath fight to change the terrifying math of climate change through fossil fuel divestment, public protests, and breaking down our government's relationship with the fossil fuel industry.*
- **Inconvenient Truth** – *A passionate and inspirational look at former Vice President Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it.*

Food/Sustainable Agriculture.

- **Pricele\$\$** – *(see above – this film is primarily about campaign finance reform but looks at it through the issues of agriculture and the environment)*
- **Food, Inc** – *In Food, Inc., filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment.*
- **••Anyone for a good book, too?** Since we're participating in the LWVUS study of our agriculture position (including looking at GMO's, water contamination from agriculture runoff, and herbicides), the LWVCA is going to try a "book club" lunch featuring Michael Pollan's "**Omnivore's Dilemma**" this year.

Education.

- **Teached** – *Teached is a series of short films that candidly assess the causes and consequences of our nation's race-based "achievement gap," looking at continuing inequalities in our public school system and taking viewers into those communities where the effects are most severe to hear what solutions the students, parents, teachers and others have to offer.*
- **American Teacher** – *Weaving interviews of policy experts and startling facts with the lives and careers of four teachers, American Teacher tells the collective story by and about those closest to the issues in our educational system—the 3.2 million teachers who spend every day in classrooms across the country. The film is part of the Teacher Salary Project which advocates for better teacher salaries.*