

Seminar Questions

BRING SOME QUESTIONS OF YOUR OWN TO SEMINAR AS WELL!

What is racism? In what ways does it manifest? Obvious ways? Subtle ways?

What are the different stereotypes about different races? How do these stereotypes affect people's behavior toward each other?

How do the characters in this film fit the stereotypes that others hold of them? How do they prove them different?

In what ways do individuals oppress each other in the film *Crash* and in real life?

What does this film say about human beings and the nature of racism? Is racism natural? Is it learned?

How do characters in this film perpetuate the cycle of oppression?

Racist and un-racist are not absolute binaries. Where does this binary get complicated in this movie?

Discuss what different characters learn.

Why is Matt Dillon's character a racist? Is there ever just cause to be racist?

Why does Ryan Phillippe's character shoot Graham's brother? What does he learn about himself?

What is the meaning of the title? What is the significance of what Graham says in the beginning about us living behind metal and glass?

What new realizations did you have as you watched this film?

What is the current state of racism in the US? How is it different than it used to be?

If we have the general perception that everything has changed for the better, what forces do you think caused this change to happen?

What is the relationship between race and social class in terms of stereotyping and scapegoating? Race and education?

What is the relationship between racism and ignorance?

What is the role of the individual in breaking or perpetuating the cycle of oppression?

How might racism end? What can we do? What can be done? Who should do it?