




INFLUENCE | FILM CLUB

www.influencefilmclub.com

Club Resource Pack

Types of Clubs

One of the first steps in creating a club is deciding which type is the best for you. We offer three suggestions below, but feel free to mix them up and create your own perfect solution. If you prefer to show the films in your home, that doesn't mean your group can't go out to the theatre from time to time. Feel free to live outside of these boxes.

		
Watch First Meet Later	At Home With Friends	Get Out Watch Together
<p>Each member watches the film on their own, then the group meets together to discuss the film.</p> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most time-efficient (1-2 hours)• Most convenient - members watch films on their own time• Easy to coordinate <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Misses out on experiencing the film together• The film's impact could be lost or reduced by the time the meeting is held	<p>This group meets in a member's home to watch and discuss the film together.</p> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experiencing the film together can be very powerful• Discussions are usually more dynamic and energetic• Being in a member's home allows for a more cozy, intimate setting• Easy to coordinate <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings are longer (3-4 hours)• Requires more preparation (technical considerations)	<p>This group meets at a location other than a member's home, such as a theatre, cafe, pub, studio, shop, etc.</p> <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experiencing the film together can be very powerful• Discussions are more dynamic and energetic• Allows for the possibility of hosting a larger group <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings are longer (3-4 hours)• If the location is open and public, a screening license is required*

* Please note: Hosting an open screening in a public place could require a film screening license. The license is easy to obtain, but it is not free. Members can chip in to cover the cost of the license, but please bear in mind that NO tickets can be sold and NO profit can be made unless the club organizer has obtained a license with cinematic rights. Find more information about license fees here ([link](#)).

Being a Host

FAQ

What does it mean to be a club organizer?

Basically, a club organizer has a few extra responsibilities, such as inviting members into the club and setting up the next meeting. Some club organizers might also take a leadership role during club meetings by choosing the film, facilitating discussion, gathering all necessary materials and technical equipment, etc. We suggest that these responsibilities be rotated throughout the club so that all members have an opportunity to facilitate a meeting.

Note: the club organizer's function is NOT to make a presentation of the film or its subject matter, push arguments onto the other members, or deliver answers to the questions asked.

How do I choose a film?

Not sure what film to pick? Each month Influence Film Club is going to hand pick one of our favorite docs as our club's featured film to watch and discuss together. Why not invite some friends over to watch it with you? We will even suggest some recipes related to the film for you to enjoy at your home screening. We will post photos of our club on our Facebook and Instagram and invite you to do the same. We can't wait to watch our movement grow across the globe.

If your club is following an Influence Film Club playlist, then simply choose one of the six films on the playlist. If your club is interested in a certain theme or genre, use the search options on the FILMS page to find a film within your interest. Otherwise, just explore our extensive film library and pick something that catches your eye. Whether you're interested in food, music, politics, or quirky characters, we offer something that will help generate meaningful discussion.

How do I get the film?

Influence Film Club is not a distributor, so we do not provide the films on our website, but on every film page you will find options to Buy, Rent, or Stream the film from reputable sources. We suggest using a Video-on-Demand Search engine like "Just Watch" to find ways to watch the film online - it includes links to Netflix, iTunes, etc. or If you google VOD search (your country), you will likely find one for your neck of the woods. The viewing options differ from region to region, so use your own preferred sources to either purchase, rent, or stream the films.

How do I arrange the club meeting?

- Pick a film to watch on influencefilmclub.com
- If you are watching at home or hosting a screening, secure all necessary technical equipment for watching the film in advance. It helps to do a trial run to make sure you aren't missing a certain cord or adapter. Check the speakers too. Make sure you have your power cord. And if you're using a DVD, don't forget to check it for scratches!
- Consider previewing the film to check for technical issues and to prepare for discussion.
- Read through the discussion guide, particularly the themes and questions. It's good to be prepared and know how you would like to shape the discussion. Of course you can't plan everything. Have some ideas, but stay open and flexible. Let the discussion flow freely and naturally.

Do I need a screening license?

If you are hosting a small private group at home, then no, you do not need a screening license. If you are showing the film at an open public place, then you probably need to pay a licensing fee or obtain a copyright permission. If you open the event to the general public and charge an entrance fee/ticket price, then you will need a cinematic screening license. The laws can vary by country and region, so please contact the appropriate person where you live.

How do I arrange a venue?

Arranging a venue depends on what kind of club you are participating in (see above, Types of Clubs).

Watch First, Meet Later: The venue can be anywhere that you feel is a comfortable, appropriate space for discussion. This can be your home, a cafe, library, etc.

At Home, With Friends: Meetings will take place in your (or another member's) home. Make sure you have the proper equipment and a comfortable environment for watching the films. Consider your club members. Are they your close friends? Colleagues? Old or young? A comfortable space could be anything from pillows on the floor to a big couch, or you can arrange chairs in a larger room with a projector and screen. Do what's best for your group.

Get Out, Watch Together: This club requires the coordination of an exterior location. The location should be comfortable, appropriate for members, and it should meet your technical requirements. If you are approaching a new venue, be friendly when telling them about your film club. Explain how you think the film meetings could be mutually beneficial.

Should I arrange food and snacks?

It's not mandatory, but it's definitely a nice gesture. If your club will be discussing our film of the month, take some inspiration from the recipe we include in our newsletter. Regardless, bear in mind the venue and meeting time when deciding on the food. Obviously a potluck dinner will take more time and effort than movie snacks. If you meet in a cafe, members might want to purchase food and drinks there. Be sure to discuss this with the venue first.

What does it mean to facilitate discussion?

Facilitating discussion means creating a space where all members can talk openly. Influence Film Club provides a high-quality, well thought-out Discussion Guide, related resources and articles, links to official websites and reviews. These materials can be found on each and every film page. It's important for the club organizer to read and think about the discussion materials beforehand, which requires a bit of preparation and planning, but ultimately allows for easy, natural conversation.

How often should I host meetings?

It is totally up to your club to decide how you want to rotate the hosting role. Some clubs might want the club organizer to host and facilitate every meeting, while other clubs might rotate these responsibilities. We recommend the latter. Giving all members the opportunity to host meetings has proven to be very successful. You can maintain the same host for a season, or even an entire year.

Sample Letter to Potential Club Members

Dear (blank),

I hope you're well! I'm writing to you because I recently heard about Influence Film Club, an online platform that helps facilitate meaningful conversation around documentary films. For each of the films in their library, they offer discussion guides, related resources, and a wide range of inspiring materials to help delve deeper into the issues raised in the film.

Here's a statement from Influence Film:

"We love documentaries because they deal with real people and real stories that deserve to be seen and talked about. No matter how much our societies change, stories remain fundamental to the human experience. They're what our lives are made of. They're what we leave behind. They connect us to everyone, and even to ourselves. We want to enable filmmakers to tell these stories, and to help people find them."

I think it's a great idea, to actually get together and talk about the films! Are you interested in joining my small film club? If so, go to influencefilmclub.com to learn more. The first meeting will take place on (date) at (time). I'd really love to see (Name of Film). Here's some info about the film: [\(insert the link to the film page on Influence Film Club\)](#).

Let me know if you are interested in joining!

Talk soon,

(Name)

How To Watch a Documentary with Your Kids

Please use your own discretion when choosing films for your kids, and in choosing the best way to interact with your kids. However, we've learned some things along the way and happily share them with you here:

- Start with lighter, more entertaining films to warm kids up to film nights. Slowly build up to films with bigger messages.
- Establish beforehand that you will talk about the film once it's over. If they ask why, you can explain how important it is for us to think and talk about the things we watch.
- Choose films that are age-appropriate. This doesn't mean that you cannot show a heavier film, just maybe not one that is too perplexing to hold their attention.
- After the film, create a comfortable and natural space to discuss the film. Use the themes and questions located in the Discussion Guide to generate conversation. You might simplify some of the questions. Use your own discretion. Just keep your questions open and give your kids enough time to think about and formulate their responses.
- Share your own thoughts and feelings with your kids, but likewise, be open to listening and learning from them.

Sample Club Meeting

Watch First, Meet later

20 minutes: Snacks, drinks, and informal conversation ('Clear the air')

10 minutes: Share results and thoughts from the previous meeting

15 minutes: Read the Film Summary aloud. Take a moment to recall the film, and then share initial reactions

60 minutes: Discussion questions and meaningful conversation

20 minutes: Last thoughts about the film AND/OR group commitment

TOTAL TIME: 2 hours

At Home, With Friends

20 minutes: Snacks, drinks, and informal conversation ('Clear the air')

10 minutes: Share results and thoughts from the previous meeting

90 minutes (roughly): Watch the film

10 minutes: Restroom break

15 minutes: Initial reactions to the film

60 minutes: Discussion questions and meaningful conversation

20 minutes: Last thoughts about the film AND/OR group commitment

TOTAL TIME: 3.5 hours

Get Out, Watch Together

You will need to plan according to the venue. If you are going to the theatre to watch a public screening, we recommend booking a table at a local restaurant or cafe where you can continue the conversation after the film. Note: consider how changing venues will require additional time. Some venues might allow you to hold the conversation there. For example, small bookshops or cafes might allow you to watch and discuss the film in their space, especially if the meeting is held after hours.