



Discussion Guide

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Too many POINT OF VIEWS are filled with critical comments, mocking, and condemning statements. These viewpoints build up cliques and tear down confidence. This type of thinking leads people to...

- ...be critical, lack kindness, and eventually bully others.
- ...motivate people to do wrong things, like drugs, alcohol, or smoking.
- ...creates doubt in our own abilities leading to a belief that our self-worth is based on what others think or the number of likes, hearts, or smiles received.

POINT OF VIEW is a 40-minute multi-media experience from Camfel Productions designed to look beyond the violence, racism, intolerance, harassment and hate in this world, giving students a new perspective on the differences that separate them from their peers, their parents, and the others who are around them. They'll gain a new sense of their own innate worth. The program will encourage them appreciate the diversity of race, language and culture that make up the community in which they live.

GROUP DISCUSSION

OBJECTIVES:

It starts with a casual glance; a snap judgment from a distance. "Valuable or worthless?" "Attractive or repulsive?" "Suitable to copy or just to ridicule?" We base life-changing conclusions about people on their outside appearance and rarely seek to understand their life from their POINT OF VIEW. This program will motivate your students to see themselves and others from a different POINT OF VIEW. It will encourage students to look for what's good around them and to seek to make a difference in the lives of those around them.

- 1. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: OPENING SEGMENT – YOUR UNIQUE POINT OF VIEW.** Everyone in this room has a unique point of view. A different slant on what's going on right now, a one-of-a-kind way of looking at life. However, too often we hide that point of view because we're afraid of what others might think of our opinions or ideas.

Talk about why we might hide who we really are, what we're really thinking, or how we're truly feeling to be accepted by those around us. There's a lot of pressure to fit in with our peers and to be connected to those around us. Talk about the stress students feel to fit in with the crowd. Peer pressure is the number one reason students start smoking, using drugs or consuming alcohol. What can we do to help ourselves or those around us avoid these types of negative activities? Discuss the stress students' feel to get good grades? What kind of pressure are they feeling concerning their future college or career choices?

- 2. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS.** Chris experienced a lot of anxiety and stress all the way through grade school and into high school. His low point of view of himself led him to consume various drugs. The drug use complicated his life even more creating family turmoil and loss of desire to improve his life.

Chris found himself lost in his drug use. Talk about why people believe drugs, smoking, or alcohol will solve their problems. How does the usage of drugs, alcohol, or smoking complicate your life at home, at school, or in the work place? How can we help those who are struggling to fit in with the crowd and feel pressured to consume drugs or alcohol or start smoking?

- 3. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: SONG: WALK BY KWABS.** The song's lyrics state, "Gotta take a minute just to ease my mind 'cause if I don't walk then I get caught out. And I'll be falling all the way down. Turn my head and shut my eyes. If I don't walk I'll keep messing around and I'll be falling all the way down." The visuals on screen show examples of those being pressured to make poor choices, like drugs and such. Sometimes the best way to handle peer-pressure is to just walk away and don't look back.

Others may pressure you or you might feel pressured to take part in activities you know to be wrong for you. Talk about why it's important to walk away. How does the pressure to feel accepted and a part of the group motivate so many to get involved in doing wrong things? Discuss those you know who have made poor choices and how those choices have hurt them in school, at home, or the work place.

- 4. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH ELIJAH.** Both on the field and in the classroom, Elijah has a positive point of view of himself, even though things haven't been easy at home. Due to his step mother's drug use, his family lost their home. Elijah was forced to change schools for his junior year. Elijah should have been upset with having to make new friends and tryout for another football team. Instead, he motivated himself and those around him to excel in school and on the football field.

Too many get dramatic or angry when life doesn't quite work out as planned. How might this type of behavior taint your point of view about life and how you feel about yourself? Elijah believed in his abilities and chose to make the best of a bad situation. Talk about why it's important to make lemonade when life gives you lemons. Elijah wakes up each day, sets his eyes on his goals and dreams for his life and with determination works to achieve his best. What can you learn from his example?

- 5. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: FILM CLIP – HIDDEN FIGURES.** The scene begins with a young black girl demonstrating an amazing understanding of math and geometric figures. It then shows her to be employed at NASA to calculate space mission plans. Other scenes presented show her and other women encountering those who have prejudices about women and minorities.

Talk about how our biases or various prejudices get in the way of seeing a proper point of view. It's not a black & white issue. Note various stereotypes we have concerning those with glasses, clothing styles, speech accents, and such. We have a tendency to judge others by what we see on the outside. Why do we treat others differently when we perceive them to be popular, smart, or handicapped?

- 6. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: DISTORTED POINTS OF VIEW IN HISTORY.** American History is filled with distorted points of view. The pilgrims and pioneers encountered the Indians and labeled them savages. The Chinese came to America seeking jobs and opportunities following the 1849 gold rush. However, Congress passed a Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 banning the immigration of the Chinese to America. During World War I German Americans were mistreated and bullied by other Americans. People became fearful of Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Over 100,000 Japanese Americans lost homes, businesses, and property when they were confined to prison type camps.

Loyal Americans were mistreated simply by the ethnicity. Have things really changed? America today seems so fractured and divided. We're destined to repeat history and all its negativity when we adopt points of view that treat others poorly based on skin color, ethnicity, or beliefs. Why do you think we allow fear to motivate us to segregate and divide us? Why do we look for ways to demonstrate how wrong they are rather than look for how right they are or can be? What types of divisions do you witness at your school? What can you do to make a difference?

- 7. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH JENNA.** Jenna is reaching out to the special needs students at her school. She wants to erase the labels that are placed on them. Throughout the year, Jenna, and students from her Renaissance class, plan, set-up, and run parties and activities that are designed to make the special education students feel like they belong. Jenna is motivated to help those who are set aside and pushed to the outer fringes of her school. She recognizes that everyone is different but we can find the common ground between us to engage and enjoy a better way of life.

You'll be much happier in life if you stop looking for what's wrong around you and start appreciating what is right. That's what Jenna is doing. She is seeing the person and humanity rather than the handicap in those students at her school. How might looking for what is right help improve your outlook on a day? How does it make you feel when others are critical of you? How does it make you feel when others are encouraging? Talk about how your school might be different if everyone focused on what is good rather than on what is wrong.

- 8. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: MY WAY! SKIT.** A salesman is promising to help you get things your way. And who doesn't want everything to work out there way? He promises to fight for you to make your life easier. Have a problem at school or home? Don't worry, Snapchat him and he'll get things done your way!

Funny skit but it is true. We get upset when things aren't going our way. You see, that's an example of opposing points of view. Opposing points of view can be selfish or possibly quite hostile. Problems arise when we begin to value our own viewpoint - getting things MY WAY - at the expense of everyone else. Knocking others down to get our way isn't fair and it isn't right. Bullying, mean comments, or bad attitudes lead to hostilities. Talk about why it's important to recognize that the world isn't always fair and that things won't always go our way.

- 9. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH PHOEBE.** Phoebe was just a freshman when she earned a spot on the school's varsity soccer team. And she didn't just make the team, she was the league's top goal scorer as well as the league's most valuable player. When the school season ended, Phoebe joined one of the area's top soccer clubs. She expected to continue to dominate on her new team, but her plans were crushed when things didn't go her way. She spent the majority of the season on the bench. She was angry at the coach and considered letting her hostility be known through social media.

Too many today vent their frustrations on social media. Talk about why we feel it's okay to tweet, post, or blog such hostilities when we would never do so face to face. What do you think when you hear someone saying so many negative things about others? Phoebe learned that things won't always go her way. She was disappointed but learned a valuable lesson that will help her in the future. Discuss what you have learned from her example.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

The closing interview is with Genaro. He was born with a handicap and is confined to a wheelchair. He could have a negative point of view of himself and his life, however he is focused on developing the skills he can do. He plays basketball and tennis. Others see him and say, "he can't do it" but Genaro works hard to overcome their stereotypes of him. He understands that not everything will go his way and not everyone will get along with him but he can make the best of his condition and excel at setting and achieving his goals for his life.

POINT OF VIEW

Overview

Program Description:

POINT OF VIEW is an engaging motivational three-screen program challenging students to consider the viewpoint they have of themselves, those around them, and the conflicts they have with others. The presentation provides tools they can use to gain the right opinion of themselves, to look beyond the surface to really get to know others, to help end bullying and negative commentary in social media, and ideas for how to find the common ground they share with those with differing backgrounds and opinions.

- A. Your perception of yourself is based on a combination of emotion, meaning and experience built by you over several years.
- B. We commonly seek acceptance or validation from others to feel better about ourselves. Unfortunately, for too many, this leads to drugs, alcohol, smoking or wrong activities.
- C. We have a tendency to judge others by what we see on the outside. We need to take the time to listen, understand, and get to know others for who they really are on the inside.
- D. Bullies and critical voices have challenged Americans throughout history. Oddly, we will find ourselves happier in life when we spend less time looking at what is wrong around us and start appreciating things for what is right.
- E. It's my way or the high way! Too many have that point of view. However, life doesn't always go your way. Many are prone to attacking others through social media when things aren't going their way. This only creates a bigger problem and solves very little.
- F. Conflicting points of view are part of life. Success comes in finding the common ground we share and work through our differences to achieve a win-win situation.

Your point of view is something you choose. Decide today to start looking for the good in what is around you. Start seeing the possibilities of who you are and what you can be. Then, pursue those goals and dreams for your life. There will be challenges, bullies, and critics along the way but you can, with determination and hard work excel to be the best you can be. We may not be able to change the way others see the world around them but we can select our POINT OF VIEW!

POINT OF VIEW

Worksheet

- 1) Why are we more critical of our actions or appearance than those around us?
- 2) What can you do to help those who are struggling to feel accepted at school?
- 3) Why are people so critical of others when using social media?
- 4) How might saying mean things online be a type of bullying?
- 5) Why is listening and trying to understand others important to handling conflict?
- 6) How might appreciating what is right around you lead to a happier life?