

Appendix H: Discussion Quotes by Theme

Another way to prompt discussion is to invite participants to respond to quotes from THE NEW AMERICANS. This invitation to comment on another person's thought more naturally mirrors the way discussion begins in everyday life and engages viewers in dialogue with the voices of the people in the scenes they view.

The quotes have been clustered by theme. Select the cluster of quotes that best reflects the interests identified by participants or have the group choose the theme. Then hand out copies of the selected quotes for one of the following activities.

I. Discuss Reactions

Give participants a few quiet minutes to reflect on the quotes. Then ask individuals to pick the one that most captured their interest and to tell the group why. There's no need to look for consensus. The point of the activity is to hear a range of responses and consider multiple interpretations.

II. Discuss Themes

Ask participants to read the collection of quotes to themselves or ask various individuals to read one aloud (or the facilitator can read them aloud).

Encourage participants to jot down their reactions to the quotes as they read or hear them. These questions may help them express their reactions.

- What themes, images or words come to mind as you consider these quotes together?
- How would you summarize the ideas or issues that they raise?

Quotes by Theme

Hopes and Dreams

Ricardo:

“And when I get my first big paycheck, the first thing I'll do is buy a house for my mother.”

Pedro:

“What I want to give them is like an inheritance. Because I have nothing else to give them other than those papers so they can cross and seek their future.”

Anjan:

“Lots of Indians are coming out here dreaming that they'll be multimillionaires, multibillionaires. It's very much possible. And you can invest in stock so easily out here. Few clicks you can make lots of money. The doors are open for me to do lots of things. It's exciting times.”

Israel's brother:

“Today when you leave here and enter that bus to go to the airport, be determined. Be ready to work. If you don't succeed, Ogoni has failed. Your success is your family success, it's your village success. If you fail, it is your family failure, it is Ogoni failure. We are all failed. May the Lord be with you as you go.”



Israel:

“My kids feel America is their country. They have high hopes. All I want is, just let them grow up here. Try to make their own life the way they want to make it, decide what they want in life. At this moment, he's an American. I'm Nigerian. You see two countries living in the same home.”

Jibad's Friend 1:

“The United States, that is what's best for me... What I want as a human being I can't achieve in Palestine. I want a good life, good education and good work and to find my dignity through work.”

Jibad's Friend 2:

“He's the first person I've met that's going to look for his dignity in the States.”

Jibad's Friend 3:

“I will tell you, you will not find dignity there.”

Jose's mother:

“For someone who has always had everything, to be told you can't go to the U.S. is no big deal. But poor people's dreams are very deep things.”

Frustration

Barine:

“Sometimes they ask the stupid questions like... 'Do they really wear clothes in Africa?' and I feel sad. I always tell them this is what the white people want you to believe.”

Ventura: *“I can't read, but I know things.”*

Hatem: *“Speak English.”*

Naima: *“Okay. I hate you.”*

Hatem: *“Do you think that's funny at all?”*

Naima: *“No, it's not funny.”*

Hatem: *“It's not funny at all.”*

Naima: *“You want me to speak English, I'll speak English.”*

Ventura:

“I'm here with my husband, we're all together... but I still miss Mexico. I'm confused. Everything is different here. Sometimes I it's not worth the grief.”



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“I’m here with my husband, we’re all together... but I still miss Mexico. I’m confused. Everything is different here. Sometimes I it’s not worth the grief.”

Anjan:

“I’m sad that now I’m lost in this world, that I wasn’t wise enough when I got lost to find my way, so I didn’t have to put others to sorrow. It’s like I’m in South Pole and I have just a compass, and I don’t know how the compass works... . So many visions about life have changed. Very few things remain black and white.”

Need for Community

Naima's mom:

“Old people stay home here. It’s good for people who work, time passes... . Back home I used to walk around, visit people... . Back home I go everywhere alone... but here I just stay home and don’t do much.”

Ventura:

“I have no one to talk to. Pedro, at least, has work. He comes home, he eats, we talk, he sleeps. Life is varied for him. He gets distracted at work, but it’s not the same for me. I keep all my worries inside my heart. I have all this inside and no one to talk to.”

Harsini:

“I stay at home the whole day sitting in four walls. I don’t have a car. I cried a lot initially. I have wanted to go back to India. I feel very lonely sometimes.”

Ngozi:

“Back in Nigeria, you have your parents, your sisters. They’ll take care of your kids for you. You can go anyplace you want to. But here... nobody, no way. I’ve got to work when I come back from work. I take care of my kids. No time to read. Nothing.”

Ricardo:

“Racism exists not only because I’m white or you’re black, but because you’re Latino, you’re of another culture.”

Immigrants at Work and School

Pedro:

“In the course of eight hours, you have to cut up 3,800 cows into many parts. If I don’t keep up with my pieces, it’s hard on fellow workers. In that plant there are people from all over the world because I don’t think Americans would want to get their hands dirty with that kind of work. There are people from Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Asia. If it weren’t for us, I think the plant would not exist.”

Anjan:

“If I wanted to go back, okay, well, that’s something else. Forced to go back is like kicking out a guest. You make money out of us while we’re here and the moment you don’t want us, kick out. That’s not Indian way of doing things.”

Zina’s teacher:

“I have maybe two or three African students in each class. They’re very respectful children. I wish I had more of them.”

Refugee resettlement counselor:

“We have something in common with black Americans. Because of the color of our skin... we have to be one, but also there are differences between the African immigrants and African Americans and that is the culture.”

Money and Success

Anjan:

“I don’t know, there is some strange kind of pressure on me to get her lots of things... . And because I have to get her lots of things, I have to earn more... . And because I have to earn more, I have to sacrifice more of my home life. I don’t know, it’s a vicious circle.”

Israel:

“Surely I’ll go back to my country one day. And they’ll ask me, ‘What did you bring from America?’ I don’t have to tell them I was doing punch press work all my life.”

Anjan’s father:

“I am sorry to say... I have a very low estimate of the American people. I feel sorry for them... with power, with money, they are poor people, they are very, very poor. ‘I have done it! I did it! It is I, I, I, I.’ They think that ‘I’ has brought them to this level. But how it has spoiled them, they don’t realize.”

Ngozi:

“We have to help our people back at home. They believe we are doing something and we are living fine here, so we have to help them, too.”

Ricardo:

“Everything depends on two things, dedication and luck—mainly luck.”

Resources for Further Research

Students, community organizations, and education and health professionals can find additional resources and references on relevant topics and web links to related organizations for further exploration into issues arising from THE NEW AMERICANS at www.itvs.org/outreach/newamericans/guide

Evaluation

Users of THE NEW AMERICANS Series Guide and participants in the community engagement and educational outreach activities have an opportunity to give feedback and measure outcomes at www.itvs.org/outreach/newamericans/guide