

# Guides for Film Screenings

## FILM SCREENING GUIDE

View *The New Drug Talk* film [here](#) (downloadable version [here](#)).

For National Fentanyl Awareness Day, you have a powerful opportunity to foster change by hosting a screening of the short informational film *The New Drug Talk*, followed by a panel discussion or Q&A session. This guide will walk you through assembling a knowledgeable and impactful panel, as well as facilitating a meaningful discussion to educate and inspire action within your community.

*Note:*

*Some communities choose to follow the screening with a panel discussion featuring key community experts to discuss the local fentanyl crisis and how to educate the community to connect and protect their loved ones. The panel can include an audience question and answer session as well.*

*Other communities opt to skip the panel and follow the screening with an open question and answer session. For this format, it is helpful to have a moderator who can keep the discussion organized and on time.*

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## STEP 1 | ASSEMBLING YOUR PANEL

A diverse panel of at least 3-4 individuals is key to providing a comprehensive understanding of the fentanyl crisis. Aim for a mix of those with personal experience, medical expertise, and/or educational insights. Potential panelists could include:

- **Local Family Impacted by Fentanyl:** Reach out to local support groups or networks for families affected by drug-related issues. Look for someone who is willing to share their story to help others understand the personal impact of fentanyl.
- **Medical Expert:** Contact hospitals, clinics, or addiction treatment centers for recommendations on doctors, nurses, or addiction specialists who have experience with drug treatment and recovery. An expert who can speak on the medical aspects of fentanyl will provide invaluable insights.
- **Educator Specializing in Health or Addiction:** Universities or community colleges are good places to find professors or teachers specializing in health care, mental health, or addiction studies. They can offer an educational perspective on the issue and suggest preventive measures.

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### STEP 2 | PREPARING FOR THE EVENT

- **Identify a Host:** Determine who will host the screening, book the venue, invite panelists and community members. This individual/organization will arrange the details of the screening, confirm technical logistics of the screening, and ensure the event is well attended.
- **Venue and Logistics:** Secure a venue that is accessible and comfortable for the community. Ensure that the screening and discussion areas are equipped with necessary AV equipment. Venue options can be anything from a home, a community center, to a local theater.
- **Promote the Event:** Use local media, social media, community bulletin boards, and word-of-mouth to advertise your event. Highlight the importance of the topic and the expertise of your panelists to attract a diverse audience.
- **Prepare Your Panelists:** Provide panelists with an overview of the film and the event's objectives. Encourage them to watch the film ahead of time and prepare key points or stories they'd like to share after the screening. A moderator should be identified who can keep the discussion organized, prepare questions for discussion, and keep the event on time. It's helpful to have a pre-event meeting or call to discuss the flow of the panel discussion.

#### SAMPLE RUN OF SHOW FOR SCREENINGS

5:30	Arrive & Settle
5:35	Welcome
5:45	Show Film
6:15	Panel and Q&A
7:00	Close

### STEP 3 | FACILITATING THE DISCUSSION

- **Introduce the Topic and Panelists:** Start with a brief introduction of the issue, the film, and each panelist. Set a respectful and open tone for the discussion.
- **Moderate Effectively:** Prepare a list of questions to guide the discussion but be flexible to let the conversation flow naturally. Encourage panelists to share their perspectives and experiences, and ensure each panelist has equal opportunity to speak. Sample panel questions can be found below.
- **Engage the Audience:** Allow time for audience questions and encourage participation. Consider using a microphone for audience questions to ensure everyone can hear the discussion.
- **Provide Resources:** End the event by sharing local and national resources for education, support, and advocacy. This could include hotlines, websites, and local support groups.

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### SAMPLE PANEL QUESTIONS

- **General Questions:**
  - Narcan is an important tool to reverse overdose. Where is it available? Would you advise families of teens and young adults to have some in the house?
  - Parents seeing this film may be alarmed. What would you want them to do now that they know more about the fentanyl crisis?
  - The film presented the big picture of what is happening nationally, how can you (local expert) shed light on what is happening in your community?
  - The film touched on mental health and how that can be a factor in kids' decision to try or experiment with substances or turn to a substance to self-medicate. What can parents do to address that?
  - Some parents watching this film may think that their kids already know about fentanyl and that they don't need to talk to them. What would you tell those parents?
  - How can parents stay up to date on trends and how to even start this critical conversation in the home?
- **For a bereaved family member:** In the film, we hear from several families who lost a child to fentanyl. Can you tell us about your family's story?
- **For an addiction expert/mom of teens:** What should parents of teens and young adults be doing? What is the best way to talk to a teen about the dangers of the current drug landscape?
- **For a local health care professional:** We know that often kids reach for substances to cope with big feelings. Can you offer some advice to families about how they can stay in tune with their kids' mental health and help them develop healthier coping strategies?

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### STEP 4 | FOLLOW-UP

- **Thank Participants:** Thank your panelists and attendees for their participation and contribution to raising awareness.
- **Share Highlights:** Post highlights or a summary of the discussion on social media or community networks to reach those who couldn't attend.
- **Feedback:** Consider sending out a feedback form to attendees and panelists to learn what worked well and what could be improved for future events.

By hosting a film screening and panel discussion for National Fentanyl Awareness Day, your group can play a crucial role in educating the public, sharing personal stories, and advocating for action against the fentanyl crisis. Remember, the goal is not only to raise awareness but also to inspire and empower individuals and communities to take concrete steps toward prevention and support.