

SMALL GROUP

TELLING

amy's story

SHARE. DISCUSS. REFER.

Raising Public Awareness of Domestic Violence

PENNSTATE



PUBLIC BROADCASTING

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SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Book clubs and other small groups are perfect venues for sharing *Telling Amy's Story*. We can discuss how we feel about what we've just seen and how we can help change the ending for other victims.

It may be helpful to invite an advocate from your local domestic violence organization. The advocate will have relevant experience and information to share and will help answer your questions. Advocates are most often professionals or volunteers from your community who work with victims or answer hotline calls.

If you can't get an advocate to be present during your discussion, please talk with one prior to your meeting: ask about services available in your community, what the statistics are locally, and what you can do to help end domestic violence. This discussion will help you as you and your friends respond to and discuss *Telling Amy's Story*.

Host Checklist and Discussion Questions

Before your discussion

- Preview the documentary *Telling Amy's Story* so that you know what to expect.
- Read the companion materials in the Community Toolkit (telling.psu.edu) and browse the website to familiarize yourself with and gain a fuller understanding of the issues that the documentary raises.
- Become especially familiar with the Domestic Violence FAQ sheet (beginning on the next page). It will help as you discuss the film.

During your discussion

- Screen the 56-minute documentary (DVD) or the 15-minute version (available online at telling.psu.edu) of *Telling Amy's Story* and then the 18-minute local discussion.
- Establish an atmosphere of respect and openness for everyone's thoughts, feelings, and opinions.
- Use the following questions to help guide discussion:
 - » *What's your reaction? How do you feel?*
 - » *Were there moments in the film that seemed familiar to you? Or spoke to you in a meaningful way?*
 - » *What surprised you? Did you have a reaction that surprised you?*
 - » *Were you able to identify with the people in the documentary? With Amy? Her mother? Her co-workers?*
 - » *How do you think you might react in similar situations?*
 - » *How does our community (friends and family, local police force, advocacy organizations, hospitals, workplaces, etc.) respond to domestic violence? Do you know? What can we do if we need to learn more about our local response or have concerns about how it is handled?*
 - » *How can we let our community (friends and family, local police force, advocacy organizations, hospitals, workplaces, etc.) know that any type of domestic violence in our community is NOT acceptable?*

At the end of your discussion

- Encourage participants to share *Telling Amy's Story* with others—members of other groups they belong to, their friends, family, and co-workers.
- Plan to touch base as to actions that the people in your meeting have taken since watching *Telling Amy's Story*.
- Encourage everyone to visit the website telling.psu.edu to share their thoughts via our online survey and to become a fan on Facebook.

Group's Commitment

At a later meeting

- Follow up on the points above
- Agree to keep the discussion going