Hotel Rwanda

Aims: To identify the importance of personal responsibility to the group or community and to examine personal motivations for actions.

Task: In small groups, reflect upon and discuss Paul’s journey by answering the following questions

1) What role did Tatiana Rusesabagina play in shaping Paul’s actions?
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2) Who else influenced Paul’s decisions?
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3) How did Paul’s definition of family expand to include the community later on in the film?
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4) How and why does Paul’s attitude change over the course of the movie?
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5) How would you describe his level of personal responsibility and investment as events unfolded?
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6) How would you describe Paul’s level of empowerment throughout the movie? Explain.
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7) How do you think you would have reacted in his situation and why?

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Hotel Rwanda: The attitude of the Media

Aims:

• To develop an understanding of the power media has to promote hateful actions and incite violence
• To analyze the role media has to inform and inspire action as it relates to human rights and humanitarian crises

1. How were words and images in the media presented in the movie?

2. What was the response from different characters in the movie:

   a) the hotel staff,
   b) the people in Kigali and the rest of Rwanda,
   c) the foreigners, the foreign press,
   d) the UN, the international community to the following:

   • the information coming across the radio in Rwanda;
   • the attitude and perception of the foreign journalists in Rwanda;
   • the reporting out of Rwanda to the international community;
   • the news coming into Rwanda from outside of the country?

3. What was the rest of the world watching, reading and listening to during the genocide in 1994?

4. Who is accountable for the actions and inaction of the media?

5. What should we expect from the media; how can we hold them responsible?

6. What is the level of public responsibility when issues are brought to light by the media?