



# HOOSIERS: THE STORY OF INDIANA THE NEXT INDIANA

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## DISCUSSION TOOLKIT



# THANK YOU!

Indiana Humanities collaborated with WFYI Public Media to create a special episode of the documentary film series *Hoosiers: The Story of Indiana*. Entitled *The Next Indiana*, it captures the unique moment in 2016 as Hoosiers look back and celebrate our state's rich history, as well as look forward and imagine the future.

In the film, you'll meet Hoosiers across the state who are taking on today's biggest challenges so that their communities are more resilient and prepared for the future. You'll probably recognize the kinds of challenges they face: the transformation of industry and agriculture, the increasing need for high-tech infrastructure, the sense of displacement as small towns grow into booming suburbs, and the changing demographics of our rural areas.

Yet you'll also recognize the kinds of Hoosiers who are rising to the occasion and meeting these challenges head-on. They're the folks who see opportunities where others may not. They are committed to making their communities better—through service, through entrepreneurship, through education—and they're hopeful about the future. These creative, hard-working and optimistic people exemplify the qualities it takes to build the Next Indiana.

We think these remarkable and inspiring stories are worth talking about with our friends and neighbors! That's why Indiana Humanities created this discussion guide and is providing resources to help Hoosier communities talk about the film and their ideas about the future of Indiana. It is our hope that you'll host a public screening of the film, using it as a jumping off point for thoughtful, open-ended and ultimately imaginative conversations about the Next Indiana.

In this guide you'll find a set of questions to guide conversation, tips on finding a great facilitator and leading meaningful discussions, and instructions for tax-exempt organizations to receive a \$100 stipend—our thank you for helping Indiana Humanities lead this important statewide conversation. On our website you'll find additional resources, like a press release template and logos, to help you get the word out about your event.

Every Next Indiana discussion will look a little different, reflecting the diversity of people and places in our state, as well as the many possibilities facing Hoosiers today. What unites them is that we all care about the Next Indiana, even if we disagree on what it looks like. What's important is that we have these conversations and draw upon a wide range of perspectives as we shape Indiana's future.

Good luck as you plan your events. We can't wait to hear what you talk about as you and your neighbors envision Indiana's next 20, 100 and 200 years!



Keira Amstutz  
President & CEO of Indiana Humanities



## QUESTIONS? NEED TO BOUNCE AROUND IDEAS?

Call or email Leah Nahmias, director of programs and community engagement.  
(317.616.9804 / [lnahmias@indianahumanities.org](mailto:lnahmias@indianahumanities.org))

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Please note: There are many more questions here than you could possibly get to in a 90-minute discussion. If conversation really takes off, it's likely that you'll only get to six or eight questions. Pick and choose those that resonate most in your community.*

- The documentary features stories of many communities that have experienced change. What story resonated the most with you? What segment would you add that tells the story of your community?
- South Bend converted its Studebaker plant to a data center. What kind of change does that represent? Is there somewhere in your community that needs a new life? What is it and what idea do you have? What's needed to make that dream a reality?
- Businesses and civic leaders in Warsaw cooperated to create Orthoworx “so someone would be getting up every morning thinking about ‘are the conditions right for the orthopedic industry to continue to be here and thrive for the next 100 years?’” What are the goals of the Orthoworx partners? What type of cooperation is needed to reimagine and innovate for the Next Indiana?
- Carmel mayor Jim Brainard makes the case that not only can a city have too much debt, it can also have too little. What does he mean? What investments has Carmel made under his leadership, and why? Do you agree with him?
- Towns like New Harmony and Jasper are leading the charge for high-speed broadband access. Why is this so important for rural Hoosiers? What role should local, state, and federal government play in creating this digital infrastructure?
- The film highlights different trajectories in rural, suburban and urban areas. How are the futures of these three kinds of communities different? How are they linked?
- In the next 20, 100, and 200 years, some cities and towns will shrink rather than grow. How can we prepare for this change responsibly? How do we take care of the people who choose to stay in small towns and rural areas when others move away?
- How is higher education shaping the future of our state? What examples do you see in the film? What others have you observed in your community and around the country?
- How is manufacturing changing? Do you think your community has come to terms with these changes? What factors are driving them? How are Hoosier companies and workers evolving for the Next Indiana?
- How is Hoosier agriculture changing? Where is innovation happening? How will technology and education shape the future of agriculture? Why is it important for agriculture to adapt?

**FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND PROGRAM INFORMATION, VISIT:**

[IndianaHumanities.org/filmdiscussion](http://IndianaHumanities.org/filmdiscussion)

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What role will arts and culture play as we envision the Next Indiana?
- Over and over, the idea of “quality of place” is raised in the film. What factors contribute to “quality of place”? Why is this an important consideration for the Next Indiana?
- The documentary highlights one of the biggest challenges in Indiana in 2016, especially in rural areas: meth and opioid use. Why do you think this story was included in a documentary about the Next Indiana? What do you think future generations will say about how we are meeting this challenge?
- Another challenge—and perhaps, opportunity—facing the Next Indiana is how we’ll power the future. How are Hoosiers rising to the challenge? What potential conflicts does energy production pose? What considerations should guide how we resolve them?
- How are issues like education, technology, quality of life and our economic future connected?
- How are immigrants and second-generation Hoosiers shaping the future of Indiana in 2016? How is your community being shaped by immigrants and the kids of immigrants?
- The film showcases how Indiana communities have been shaped by the pattern of boom and bust. How has your community been shaped by this pattern over time? What’s driving the cycle where you live? What does your community need to have sustainable growth, prosperity, and quality of life?
- The film’s narrator, historian Jim Madison, observes that the Next Indiana could be “a place that values tradition as it adapts to the changes swirling around us.” What do you think he means?
- As you look around Indiana, where do you see innovation that inspires you? In government? In education? In business? Agriculture? Urban planning and design?
- As Indiana changes over the next 20, 100 and 200 years, how do we decide what’s important to hold onto? What are we willing to let go of?
- At the end, the many people featured in the film share their ideas of what it means to be a Hoosier. How would you answer? How, if at all, do you think the definition of a Hoosier will change over the next 200 years?

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# FINDING A FACILITATOR

Many kinds of people have what it takes to be a great facilitator. The most important qualities to look for are someone who is a great listener and someone who makes others feel comfortable talking about big ideas.

Skilled facilitators come from all walks of life and can be any age. Consider asking community leaders, librarians, teachers, humanities scholars or pastoral figures. If you're looking to gather the input of young people, find a committed college student or young professional—they may never have been asked before, and it's a great chance to engage the leadership skills of the next generation of Hoosiers.

Facilitators should understand what your goals for the discussion are and commit to using the guidelines in this discussion guide. Although we recommend using the questions presented here, they may want to add some of their own. You may pay your facilitator an honorarium or you can ask if they'll donate their time for free. How much you want to pay your facilitator is up to you.

*Here are a few tips!*

- Ask open-ended questions that can be answered in a variety of ways.
- Use specific moments or quotes from the film to ground discussion. Encourage participants to take notes as they watch. Ask folks to make connections between what they heard and saw to their own communities and their own lives.
- Ask follow-up questions to get folks to dig a little deeper and make connections between different points of view in the room.
- Try to avoid questions that require a lot of background information. In other words, ask questions grounded in the film or in people's everyday lives. If your questions require a lot of background knowledge, they will exclude some people and make them feel unwelcome.
- Keep introductions brief so you can devote your time to real conversation. For instance, you might simply have everyone state his or her first name and share one word that describes how they're feeling about the future of their community.
- Set guidelines at the start. Some important ones: All perspectives are valued and it's important to hear from everyone in the room. It's okay to disagree respectfully. Be wary of easy consensus—it's possible not all points of view have been considered.
- Scan the room for verbal and nonverbal cues: Are people feeling comfortable? Is there a shy person who looks like they want to talk but just needs to be asked? Is someone talking too much? Moderate your tone and body language to invite new participants into the discussion.
- Feel free to show shorter segments interspersed with discussion, rather than screen the entire film and then have discussion.
- Avoid sharing what you think, even when people ask! Your role is to lead the conversation, not contribute opinions. Always turn the discussion back to what participants think.
- As you draw to a close, consider asking people what their wish for the Next Indiana is. What do they hope Indiana will look like in 20, 100, or 200 years?

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# GETTING A STIPEND

Anyone can download the discussion guide; tax-exempt organizations such as libraries, schools, community centers and museums are eligible to receive a copy of the film and a stipend of \$100 if they host a public screening and discussion between September 1 and December 31, 2016. (In lieu of a stipend, teachers or other school-based personnel will receive a \$100 gift card to use for books and supplies for their classrooms.)

*Here's how to apply!*

- Choose a date, time and place to hold a public screening and discussion of *Hoosiers: The Story of Indiana: The Next Indiana*. Identify a facilitator to lead the discussion. Your event should last at least 90 minutes. Events must be scheduled between September 1 and December 31, 2016.
- Complete the application form at [IndianaHumanities.org/filmdiscussion](http://IndianaHumanities.org/filmdiscussion). In your application, tell us the date, time and location of your event, who your facilitator is, and your goals for community discussion. You will receive notification within three weeks of your application; awarded sites will receive an agreement letter from Indiana Humanities.
- Sign and return the agreement letter from Indiana Humanities. Signed agreement letters must be received before your scheduled event.
- Spread the word about your event! Use the press release template and logos provided by Indiana Humanities to get the word out to your local media. Post flyers, share on social media, and use word-of-mouth to make sure everyone knows about your screening and a discussion.
- Host your event. Take pictures and keep careful track of attendance. Feel free to live tweet the conversation and tag @INHumanities! To qualify for the stipend, you must have at least 10 people at your event.
- Complete the final report form on the Indiana Humanities website, telling us how your Next Indiana discussion went, how many people came and what your community talked about. All final reports must be submitted by February 1, 2017.
- Indiana Humanities will send the \$100 stipend upon submission of your final report. Please allow up to three weeks for checks to arrive. Funds may be used to reimburse costs associated with the event, to pay your facilitator an honorarium, and/or to cover staff time for the event. (Teachers will receive a \$100 gift card to use for school supplies or books for their classroom.)

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