



WINNER
FESTIVAL FAVORITE AWARD
sundance
film festival 2023

based on a true story

RADICAL

RESOURCE GUIDE





Radical** shines a light on the incredible potential children can manifest when an innovative teacher empowers them to **think for themselves.

This resource guide may be used to spur action or discussion after viewing ***Radical*** – based on a true story, the film takes place in a Mexican border town plagued by neglect, corruption, and violence, a frustrated teacher (Eugenio Derbez) tries a radical new method to break through his students’ apathy and unlock their curiosity, their potential... and maybe even their genius.

ABOUT THE FILM

Radical tells a deeply moving true story that highlights a widespread challenge: potential is everywhere, but opportunity is not. It also highlights what may be an answer to these challenges, kids exploring their inherent resources: their curiosities and communities.

Set in Matamoros, a Mexican city along the U.S. border, the systemic challenges shown in the film mirror the challenges many Latinx youth face in the U.S., where students of color face compounded systemic and historic inequities like fewer community and school resources, graduation rates below the national average, and are often underrepresented in advanced mathematics and science classes.

**EVERY STUDENT DESERVES
AN ENRICHING AND ENGAGING
EDUCATION AND IT’S UP
TO US TO ENSURE EQUITY
IN EVERY CLASSROOM.**

With Participant’s ***Radical*** Impact Campaign, we are committed to supporting pathways to change for Latinx students and we encourage audiences to explore their own curiosities and get involved in the campaign by visiting www.Radical.movie.

Radical stars Eugenio Derbez, Daniel Haddad and Jennifer Trejo; is directed and written by Christopher Zalla; produced by Ben Odell, Eugenio Derbez and Joshua Davis; and executive produced by Javier Williams, Josh Bearman, Avelino Rodriguez and Patricia Sanchez. **The film will be released in U.S. theaters on November 3.**

To learn more about the real-life students from the film, check out WIRED Magazine's article from November 2013, [A Radical Way of Unleashing a Generation of Geniuses](#).

To learn more about Participant's long-standing impact work, please contact communications@participant.com.

HOW TO HOST A DISCUSSION

STARTING THE DISCUSSION

- Introduce yourself and your role.
- Read aloud the Discussion Guidelines and ask for everyone's agreement to kindly hold each other accountable to them throughout the meeting.
- Ask each person to introduce themselves, as far as they are comfortable, with their name, race/ethnicity, and pronouns.



SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Reflect on your experience with a radical teacher or leader – what did they do to make learning easy or engaging and what potential did that unlock in your life?
- Great leaders develop other great leaders. What did Sergio (Eugenio Derbez) do to develop leadership in his classroom?
- The statistics don't lie: many students and schools are not resourced enough to allow for successful student achievement on par with the national average. In our own community:
 - » What's working?
 - » What do we need more of?
- As the film illustrates, barriers to opportunities can take many forms. They can directly impact the ability to attend school, succeed in the classroom, find employment, or develop professionally.
 - » Can you identify a few barriers that would inhibit a person's participation in your school or organization? (ex. Communication, inadequate housing, clothing, food, a lack of education, work experience, access to technology, transportation or child care arrangements.)
 - » Pick one or two and discuss how you or your organization might support overcoming those barriers? Use Sergio's bravery and radical thinking to inspire you.



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- **APPRECIATE** that everyone in the room has good intentions and also biases. Everyone is doing the best they can from their current state of awareness.
 - **REMEMBER** that identity formation and understanding is an ongoing process.
 - **SPEAK** for yourself (“I feel...” “I think...”), not on behalf of your identity (“we feel...” “we are...”) or other identities (“they think...” “they act like...”).
 - **LISTEN** to understand and not to respond. Take the time to process what you’ve heard.
 - **AVOID** negative judgments, language, attacks, and name calling.
 - **BE OPEN** to feeling uncomfortable – all growth comes with some discomfort.
 - **UNDERSTAND** that groups of a single race can have multiple perspectives and even the most diverse groups will not represent every perspective that could be held by that group.
 - **STAY ENGAGED.** Take a moment if you feel frustrated or misunderstood, but don’t drop out.
 - **GIVE** those who are taking a moment to gather their thoughts the space to do so; respect each participant’s space to reflect before they speak.
 - **DON’T** dominate the conversation. Everyone gets a chance to speak and be heard.
 - **DON’T** expect resolution, complete agreement, or definite answers.
- This is a discussion, not a debate or a lesson.***

RESOURCES:

PARTICIPANT’S *RADICAL* IMPACT CAMPAIGN AND RADICAL FUND

This campaign and fund seek to increase educational access to underserved communities and offer audiences a bridge to connecting *Radical’s* message to the people and institutions transforming education.

As part of the campaign, our “Radical Fund” will increase access to creative and alternative styles of learning. This “Radical Fund” will be managed by Hispanics in Philanthropy, supporting organizations that focus on uplifting Latinx communities.

LINKS

To learn more about how to help strengthen Latinx leadership and influence, or for more information about how holistic education models like community schools help educators, students, and families, please read more in the links below.

[HISPANICS IN PHILANTHROPY](#) leverages philanthropic resources to mobilize and amplify the power of our communities. HIP has built, funded, and fueled Latinx power for 40 years. HIP is a convener, creating spaces for organizations, the private sector, and philanthropy to connect and collaborate in order to dismantle the inequities that affect the well-being of Latinxs in the U.S. and our communities across the Americas.

[NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION](#) is the largest labor union in the U.S., representing and advocating for public school teachers and personnel. NEA focuses the energy and resources of their 3.2 million members on improving the quality of teaching, increasing student achievement, and making schools safer, better places to learn because they believe that every student in America, regardless of family income or place of residence, deserves a quality education.

[CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE](#) places Latinx youth on a new trajectory by inspiring high school and college completion, and then providing programs to explore public policy and leadership in our nation's capital.

[HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION](#): Established by the White House in 1988, the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) is an award-winning nonprofit that identifies, inspires, prepares, and positions Latinx leaders in the classroom, community, and workforce to meet America's priorities.



ABOUT PARTICIPANT

Founded in 2004 by Chairman Jeff Skoll and under the leadership of CEO David Linde, [Participant](#) is the leading global media company dedicated to content that unites art and activism to create positive change. Participant's films have secured 86 Academy Award® nominations, including *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, a 2023 nominee for Best Documentary Feature, and 21 wins, including Best Picture for *Spotlight* and *Green Book*; Best Documentary Feature for *An Inconvenient Truth*, *CITIZENFOUR*, *The Cove* and *American Factory*; and Best Foreign Language Film for *Roma* and *A Fantastic Woman*. Participant also has earned 57 Emmy® Award nominations and 15 wins, including two wins for the groundbreaking *When They See Us*.

A pioneer of socially conscious storytelling, Participant partners with key nonprofits and NGOs to drive real-world impact and awareness around today's most vital issues on a global scale, and is the only major US entertainment company whose social and environmental impact has earned a B Corp Certification. Participant believes that diversity is a source of strength, that inclusion is essential to progress, and that equity is an imperative for impact.

FOLLOW PARTICIPANT ON [FACEBOOK](#), [INSTAGRAM](#), AND [TIKTOK](#).