



***Breakout!* Teacher Resource**

A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes out to the members of our Teacher Advisory Committee, who volunteer their time to assist in the development of Sprockets teacher resources.

TITLE: *Breakout!* (Screening and Panel Discussion)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada

RELEASE YEAR: 2009

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: English

DIRECTOR: Lalita Krishna

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY:

1. *Move Your World* (2006)
2. *Jambo Kenya* (2005)
3. *Tiger!* (2005)

RUN TIME: 75 minutes

CURRICULUM LINKS:

- Grade 5–6 Social Studies: Heritage and Citizenship, Canada and World Connections
- Grade 7–8 History and Geography: Conflict and Change, Canada: A Changing Society, Natural Resources

FOCUSING QUESTION: What does it mean to be a citizen, and what is the role of a citizen?



SYNOPSIS:

How do you get Canadian youth involved in issues that affect them and their peers across the world? Through *Breakout!*, a highly original interactive documentary series that promotes real-world activism. Global activism is everywhere, and many of those involved are young people, who work on issues including access to education and health care, the environment, poverty, children's rights, gender equality and more. *Breakout!* follows some of the most passionate and accomplished young activists to hear how they see the issues and what they're doing to bring about change.

Following a screening of selected episodes of *Breakout!*, students will be able to engage with the subject matter in an earnest and energetic Q&A involving actual *Breakout!*-featured youth activists. In order to inspire the students to continue taking action after the session, each class will be given a globally relevant group activity to tackle back in the classroom. You never know – a class's work might even be featured on *Breakout!*'s interactive website, www.breakoutonline.ca.

Taking cues from *Breakout!*'s highly interactive nature, this Sprockets experience will turn students from passive viewers to active participants. Inspired to "think globally and act locally," students will gain some concrete ideas about how youth are agents of power and can initiate change on the subjects they care deeply about.

Recommended for grades 5 through 8

AN EDUCATOR'S COMMENTS ON THE FILM:

"The Breakout screening and panel discussion is a unique opportunity for teachers to expose their students to critical issues in our world and learn how students, just like them, are choosing to address those issues. Although some of the topics in the films are tough to watch, such as child poverty and the environment, the stories also show how the dedication of youth can have a global impact."



PRE-SCREENING PREPARATION:

Citizenship Lesson

1. Brainstorm ideas of what it means to be an active citizen. Look through newspapers, magazine articles, websites or books to find different examples of active citizens.
2. Break into groups to discuss how students can be active citizens in the following communities:
 - School
 - Neighbourhood
 - Online
 - National
 - Global

Teachers may want to assign each group a different community to focus on in the brainstorming session.

3. Return to one large group and share each group's ideas; discuss how students have different perspectives about the same issues.
4. Ask students to select one issue that was discussed in the brainstorming session and write a newspaper article to learn more details about the problem and potential solutions. The article should include photos, interviews and research that may help educate others on that particular topic.

POST-SCREENING ACTIVITY:

Host a discussion with students on how one determines a cause that is important to them.

Discussion questions:

- What makes you angry?
- What makes you speak your mind?
- What do you wish you could change about the world?
- How do you think you could help to bring about this change?



CONCLUSION/WRAP-UP:

The post-screening panel discussion at Sprockets will provide a project idea that your students can work on as a class. Based on your discussion, you may also want to inspire students to select a project or service that they can do as individuals or as an entire class; it might be a service within your own school or community or something that engages an issue on a more global level.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Breakout! www.breakoutonline.ca
2. Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, www.rightsofchildren.ca
3. Me to We, www.metowe.com/
4. Free the Children, www.freethechildren.org
5. O Ambassadors, www.oambassadors.org