

# Belly of the Beast Discussion Guide

*How to Use this Guide: The discussion questions are listed after a brief summary of information about the film. If you watched the film with a group, use these questions to guide a conversation about the film. If you watched it alone, write down your answers to these questions to reflect on the film.*

## Film Description

When a courageous young woman and a radical lawyer discover a pattern of illegal sterilizations in California's women's prisons, they wage a near-impossible battle against the Department of Corrections. This shocking legal brings attention to a shameful and ongoing legacy of eugenics and reproductive injustice in the United States.

## First Impressions

1. In a few words, how did the film make you feel?
2. What aspects of the film surprised you? What aspects of the film were familiar?
3. Was there a moment in the film that you found particularly inspiring or disturbing? What was it about that moment that moved you?

## Reflection

1. Do you think the prison system as shown in the film achieved justice?
2. How did the issues presented in the film represent a systemic problem of the prison systems?
3. How did those in support of sterilization surgeries argue for profits over people?
4. How did learning about the responses on social media to non-consensual sterilizations make you feel?

## Connection

1. What did you learn from the film that you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?
2. If you were going to tell a friend about the film, what would you say?
3. How did what you learned in the film change, challenge, or affirm your perspective on human rights violations in prisons?

*You can access additional resources about the film [here](#) and look for ways to take action on the film festival website [here](#).*

*Several questions from the edublog "TUNE IN Next Time" by Faith Rogow, Ph.D., [InsightersEducation.com](#) 2019. All other rights reserved.*