

Vivos 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

On a September evening in Mexico in 2014, masked men with guns attacked five buses packed with students from the Ayotzinapa Teachers College. Six people died at the scene; 43 students were kidnapped and disappeared without a trace. The government investigation concluded that the perpetrators were members of a drug cartel and local police officers, and that the missing students were murdered and their bodies burned. Despite arrests and pending charges, no convictions ensued—exemplifying Mexico’s descent over the past 20 years into a narco-state. In this documentary, artist and activist Ai Weiwei elevates the missing students’ families voices, as he and his small film crew visit them in their villages. The film is an indictment of a corrupt government that victimizes the weakest in society with impunity.

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. How did families process having no answers about what happened to their loved ones?
2. Why did Kate Doyle say that the families had courage? How did the community show resilience?
3. Who was trying to manipulate the truth being told and why?
4. How does the story of the 43 students who disappeared represent a larger issue of disappearances?

Connection

5. What did you learn from the film that you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?
6. If you were going to tell a friend about the film, what would you say?
7. How did what you learned in the film change, challenge, or affirm your perspective on transgender rights?

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.,
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