

## ***HIDDEN FIGURES*** (whole film to be used)

### **Themes for Discussion**

- Racism
- Stereo-typing
- Gender roles
- Self-advocacy
- Perseverance
- Friendship

### **Materials needed**

- DVD or Digital Copy of MOVIE (Dir. Theodore Melfi, 2016)
- Equipment for showing film screen/moniter/dvd player/computer/speakers
- Paper/Journals/Writing Utensils
- Activity Descriptions/Directions
- Discussion Questions

### **Purpose of activity**

- To promote awareness about racism and gender bias
- To compare past and present scenarios of similar scenarios
- To develop critical thinking skills
- To promote open discussion about ways to change negative attitudes, prejudice, and injustice
- To discuss ways to advocate for self and others

### **Plot summary**

- “Three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) -- serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.”-  
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4846340/plotsummary>
- “At its core, *Hidden Figures* is the story of three remarkable women who overcame every obstacle stacked against them, despite gender, race, and the political landscape of the time.” –Director Theodore Melfi [www.journeysinfilm.org](http://www.journeysinfilm.org)

## Description of activity

- Using the question matrix, work in small groups of 3 to form and answer a question. Mark the question once it has been used and choose another question. Record the groups questions and answers in your individual journals. Be prepared to share responses with the whole group. A question matrix is sometimes used in math lessons. Since the characters in our film were skilled in math, it seems appropriate to use this journal activity in honor of them.

### Question Matrix

	Event	Situation	Choice	Person	Reason	Means
Present	What is?	Where/ When is?	Which is?	Who is?	Why is?	How is?
Past	What did?	Where/When did?	Which did?	Who did?	Why did?	How did?
Possibility	What can?	Where/When can?	Which can?	Who can?	Why can?	How can?
Probability	What would?	Where/When would?	Which would?	Who would?	Why would?	How would?
Prediction	What will?	Where/When will?	Which will?	Who will?	Why will?	How will?
Imagination	What might?	Where/When might?	Which might?	Who might?	Why might?	How might?

(Activity reference: Dr. James, UWF)

- For an individual activity, this is called The Final Cut. In this activity, you will be given a prompt and for each prompt, respond in your journal to describe the items from the film. You will have an opportunity to share your responses.

THE FINAL CUT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe a moment that emotionally and/or visually impacted you</li><li>Describe an interesting plot twist</li><li>Describe a memorable line</li><li>Describe an injustice</li><li>Describe a complicated event</li><li>Describe a new concept you encountered</li><li>Describe a moment of comic relief</li><li>Describe a relatable moment, theme, thought, experience,</li></ul>

## **Discussion questions**

All questions taken directly from [http://journeysinfilm.org/download/discussion-guide-hidden-figures/?wpdmld=1967&\\_wpdmkey=590285db119cd](http://journeysinfilm.org/download/discussion-guide-hidden-figures/?wpdmld=1967&_wpdmkey=590285db119cd)

- What do the characters in *Hidden Figures* teach about dealing with adversity?
- To what extent do the characters change during the course of the film?
- In what ways do the three main female characters catalyze changes in others?
- Who or what are the “Hidden Figures” of the title?
- What struck you the most about the three main characters?
- Did you find yourself more interested in one character than in the others? Why?
- How did you respond to the other workers at Langley?