



# QUICK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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**01** | Filmmaker Patrick O'Connor says that the Confederate flag was literally woven into Mississippi's identity. What symbols do you feel represent you or have become a part of your identity because of where you were born or what your ancestors experienced?

**02** | Have you ever changed your opinion about the meaning of a symbol? If so, what dynamics may have contributed to this change? Has your view of the Confederate Rebel flag changed after watching *Look Away, Look Away*? Why or why not?

**03** | Do you see any common threads between the Sons of Confederate Veterans describing the sacrifices of their ancestors fighting and/or dying in the Civil War, and the African Americans describing their ancestors fighting for civil and human rights, being lynched and/or arrested? Do you see a way to honor both experiences at the same time?

**04** | As the granddaughter of the segregationist Senator John Stennis, Lauren Stennis believed her flag design reflected a more inclusive, forward-looking state. Her flag was embraced by both Black and White Mississippians, but was not chosen primarily because of its association with her grandfather's beliefs. Do you believe that she was penalized for her heritage? Is that fair?

**05** | In the film, George Johnson says of the state flag, "*If you don't like it, don't live here.*" Is it fair to suggest that rather than try to change a place like Mississippi, it's better to move to a place that suits you? Does living somewhere longer give you power over someone who's lived there a shorter period of time? How do you feel about the rights of the indigenous peoples who lived on the land for centuries before Mississippi (and the Confederacy) were formed?

**06** | Anti-flag activist Lea Campbell says "*... it's incumbent upon me as a white Mississippian, and a person of privilege, to use my privilege to do what I can to dismantle the system of white supremacy and symbols of white supremacy that my ancestors created.*" What responsibility do you share for the actions of your ancestors?

**07** | Confederate flags are burned twice in the film – first at the violent protest at the Davis Monument, and then at Mississippi State Capitol. How did you respond to each moment?

**08** | *Look Away, Look Away* is bookended by horrific killings of Black Americans, first at the Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina, and finally on the streets of Minneapolis five years later. How did those traumatic events, and the subsequent protests, civil disobedience and rebellion come into play in the story of the changing of symbols and culture? Specifically how do you feel about the influence of corporations like the NCAA, Walmart, NASCAR, etc.?

**09** | Near the end of the film, Patrick O'Connor says, "*... there are truths here and the truth is uncomfortable.*" Did any of the truths in the film make you feel uncomfortable? Which ones?

**10** | What is the significance of the film's final question "*Do you consider yourself a Southerner/Mississippian or an American first*"? Why does it matter? How do you identify yourself? Geographically? Education/Vocation? Religious/Spiritual? None of the above?

This Quick Discussion Questions sheet is part of a more robust Conversation Guide created by the makers of *Look Away, Look Away* to help facilitate the difficult conversations that emerge from the film. We also offer a full Gathering Guide containing best practices, templates and scripts for hosting your discussion. Both of these guides are available for immediate download at [www.lookawaylookaway.com](http://www.lookawaylookaway.com). Thank you for watching the film, and participating in necessary and vital conversation.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## PERMISSIONS

You can use this guide in classrooms, for community gatherings, campuses, public buildings, and it may be used for virtual, and/or in-person gatherings. If you are participating in an event the filmmaker's team hosts through Show & Tell, this guide may be used for your gathering. We encourage you to further reference our Conversation Guide.

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## LOOK AWAY, LOOK AWAY

A Documentary Film About a Flag  
and a Reckoning in Mississippi

Produced & Directed by Patrick O'Connor



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