

THE LONG SHADOW

Community Action Guide

Thank you from the filmmakers

Thank you so much for watching and sharing ***The Long Shadow***. You are part of a community helping to spread the message that the work of equity and equality must fall in the hands of white Americans. We're honored that the film is educating & guiding so many about what it takes to make an important change to the way that white Americans view their role in racial justice work. We know that the story of slavery and Jim Crow is an American story and is not one that the African-American community is responsible for repairing.

With our utmost gratitude,
Frances Causey, Director
Sally Holst, Producer

Sharing the film online

Please feel empowered to copy, paste, and personalize the language below when sharing ***The Long Shadow*** with friends, family, co-workers, and community.

[Here is a link to a GoogleDrive folder](#) to download the film poster, photos, and quotes. These tools will help more people connect with your emails and posts about the film.

We are here to support you. Contact the filmmakers at thelongshadowfilm@gmail.com with any questions about sharing ***The Long Shadow*** with your community.

Short example script

I just watched ***The Long Shadow***, a powerful documentary about white privilege and white supremacy in America. Here is the link to watch the free 15-minute version of the film on their website: www.thelongshadowfilm.com/take-action

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Long example script

I just watched the PBS documentary **The Long Shadow** and I wanted to share it with you. It's a powerful true account of white privilege and white supremacy in America, and the ways that honest self reflection create change.

Would you like to watch it? Here is the link to the free 15-minute version of the film on their website: www.thelongshadowfilm.com/take-action

The film follows award-winning Director Frances Causey as she traces her family's legacy of white privilege, placing it in the context of the deeply rooted development of structural racism in the United States that continues to impact our society today.

It's also available on Amazon Prime, Kanopy, and PBS. After you watch it, can we talk about how **The Long Shadow** can be used to start the conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community?

Tag and follow **The Long Shadow** when posting on social media

- Facebook [facebook.com/longshadowdoc](https://www.facebook.com/longshadowdoc) @longshadowdoc
- Instagram [instagram.com/thelongshadowfilm](https://www.instagram.com/thelongshadowfilm) @thelongshadowfilm
- Twitter twitter.com/longshadowdoc @longshadowdoc
- Use the hashtag *#wearebettertogether*



Talking about the film and taking action

Thank you for sharing **The Long Shadow** and working to create space for meaningful discussion in your community. Here are 4 steps to begin the conversation and start taking action today.

Step 1

Breaking down implicit (unconscious) bias and making a personal commitment to doing the work

- Acknowledge the work starts with you, and the first step to having a conversation about anti-black racism is looking at our personal biases. This will be uncomfortable and challenging. It will force us to look at our own privilege, just as Director Frances Causey did in **The Long Shadow**.
 - Consider taking the [Harvard Implicit Bias Test](#) to begin to develop your understanding of underlying beliefs you hold.
- People of color don't get to opt out of this conversation or to 'not see color.' They live in this reality every day. As white allies, one of your jobs is to acknowledge this and notice the barriers that come up for you when having these conversations. Asking these important questions makes you a better community member working towards a more safe and just America.
 - See [Detour-Spotting for white anti-racists](#) for a list of common barriers.
- **Discussion questions:**
 - What biases do you bring to a conversation about anti-black racism? What are some of the ways that American society has raised you to value whiteness over blackness? What examples are shown in the media? Advertisements? Film? (*Example: How beauty is portrayed as white females*)
 - What are the main themes of **The Long Shadow**? What argument are the filmmakers trying to make?
 - Do you agree with John Powell's statement "You can't understand the United States' history without understanding the role that slavery played." Why or why not?
 - Professor Powell spells his name in lowercase in the belief that we should be "part of the universe, not over it, as capitals signify."

- **Discussion questions continued:**

- How is the Director Frances Causey's background different from yours? How is it similar? How does your education or experience affect your perspective on the issue?
- What surprised you in the film? Are there things that contradict what you've been previously taught?

Step 2

Address the implicit bias in your community

- American communities have been intentionally and systematically structured to undervalue people of color. This can be hard to think about, especially in communities we love. The fact that you're here doing the work means you are working to make your community better.
 - [African Americans have \\$1 for every \\$10 held by white Americans.](#)
- **Discussion questions:**
 - What barriers exist in your community for people of color? Where do you see the wealth gaps in your community?
 - Consider the systemic injustices you saw in **The Long Shadow** like slavery, redlining, and Jim Crow. How have these traumatic events in America's history given way to our current climate?
 - Can you think of other examples connecting the history of the treatment of African American's in our country to the present day that were not included in the film?

Step 3

Seek out and utilize tools

- Fortunately, lots of tools exist to educate white people to become better allies.
 - See the [Additional Resources](#) section of our website to get started.
- **Discussion questions:**
 - What questions did the film raise for you?
 - What are you interested in learning more about?

Step 4

Take action today

- Support Black-led social justice organizations in your community.
 - Example Google search: [black-led social justice organizations in \[your city\]](#)
- Share **The Long Shadow**.
- Join a live Zoom conversation with Director Frances Causey [on our website](#).
- Support politicians who are supporting equity, justice and inclusion.
- Encourage others in your circle of influence to be part of the change.

We Are Better Together

We hope this guide empowers you to make a personal commitment to begin a path to undo the profound hurt caused by a legacy of systemic racism.

Please contact the filmmakers at thelongshadowfilm@gmail.com if you'd like to host an online community screening event of the film with your organization, congregation, school, or another group.

