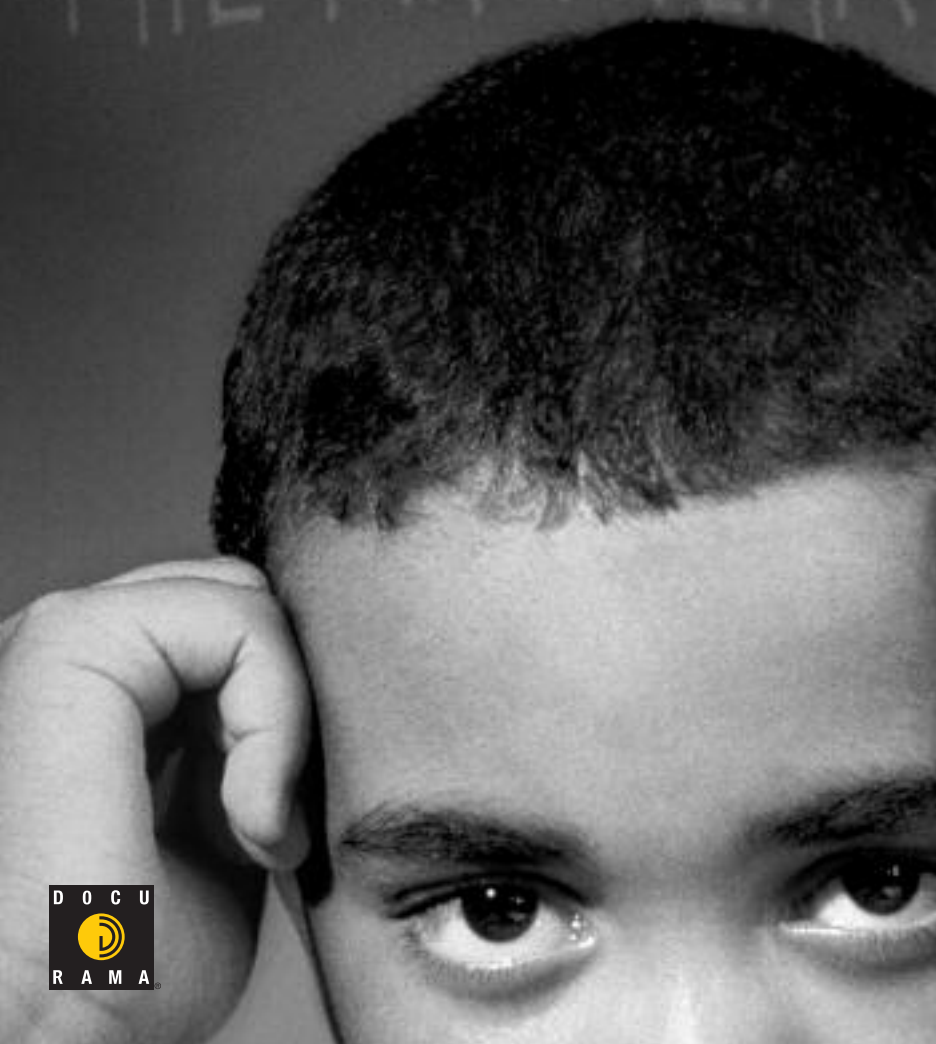


how to get involved

THE FIRST YEAR



what people are saying

“Being a teacher has never, ever crossed my mind—until now.”

—*Manual Arts High School Student, after seeing TEACH*

“This film is a very powerful message about the magic of teaching...”

—*Kerry Mazzoni, California Secretary for Education*

“I’ve seen a number of films about new teachers, but TEACH was different than most, it began to have a cumulative impact that felt like poetry.”

—*David Haselkorn President, Recruiting New Teachers*

“If enough kids see (THE FIRST YEAR) before they choose a career, it could change the country.”

—*Matt Miller, Nationally Syndicated Columnist*

“Everyone in America should see this film, and then we should discuss its implications together.”

—*Robert. D. Putnam, Author of Bowling Alone*

“...makes one consider a sudden career change.”

—*Amy Wallace, Los Angeles Magazine*

“If our politicians, school board members and pundits read or see only one thing about American education this year, it should be... THE FIRST YEAR.”

—*Peter Schrag, Sacramento Bee*

“...revealing and intensely human...”

—*Bernard Weinraub, The New York Times*



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introduction

THE FIRST YEAR and TEACH were created to recruit and retain the next generation of teachers. This step-by-step guide suggests ways in which you can use the films to motivate others. It offers screening ideas, discussion points and ways to take action.

We invite you to help inspire the next generation of America's teachers.

the crisis

America faces an extreme shortage of its most vital resource: **Teachers**.

The Need: It is estimated that over the next ten years the United States will need over two million teachers.

Factors contributing to today's teaching shortage:

- **Aging Workforce:** Of the 2.9 million teachers in the U.S. today, more than 1 million are age 48 or older.
- **Leaving the profession:** Nationally, 20% of all new hires leave teaching within three years.
- **Cities are hardest hit:** In urban districts, nearly 50% of newcomers leave the profession during their first five years.

which film to show

THE FIRST YEAR and TEACH share some material, but were made for different audiences and intended for different purposes.

THE FIRST YEAR (80 minutes) was made to raise awareness and provoke discussion about public education issues. It is more complex and subtle, and will interest an audience that prefers a deeper examination of these ideas. It premiered nationally on PBS, with an introduction by Meryl Streep.

TEACH (35 minutes) aims to inspire potential teachers. It is shorter, more upbeat and direct. It is ideal for screening in classrooms, meetings and events, and leaves time for discussion.





organize a screening

There are many ways that screenings can be organized, from the small and informal to screenings for a large audience.

Here are some screening suggestions:

- Watch TEACH at home with friends and family.
- Screen TEACH at school for your students, classmates, fellow teachers, parents and administrators.
- Work with your school or a community group to organize a screening for a larger audience.
- Follow the screening with a **discussion**.
- Encourage the audience to **take action**.

why is **discussion** important?

Audiences often feel emotional and overwhelmed after seeing THE FIRST YEAR and TEACH. Before getting involved they may want a chance to talk about the films and discuss the teaching crisis. A general discussion is helpful, encouraging people to share their reactions. After 15 minutes steer the discussion towards concrete ideas about how viewers can take action.

Possible questions for discussion:

- What was your reaction to the film?
- What moments affected you the most?
- What did the film make you feel about teachers and teaching?



discussion points for students and potential new teachers

TEACH gives a realistic look at the teaching profession. It is aimed at people who want a career that will challenge them and work that they can feel excited about.

TEACH was created for high school and college students who:

- Intend to be teachers.
- Aren't sure of their career path.
- Are open to learning more about becoming a teacher.

Discussion points:

- What teacher in this film did you most closely relate to? Why?
- What did watching the film make you feel about your own experience at school?
- Would you consider being a teacher? What age students would you teach? Why?



discussion points for **teachers** and **other professionals**

We encourage you to show the film to other teachers and staff in your school.

Discussion points:

- Share your core commitment to teaching with your colleagues. Ask them what inspired them to teach and why they continue to teach today.
- Brainstorm ways to improve collaboration between teachers, administrators and parents at your school.
- Invite a class of pre-service teachers to watch TEACH and moderate a discussion afterwards with experienced teachers.
- Write a letter of support to a new teacher explaining why you chose to become a teacher. Share your expertise with them.
- Bring TEACH to professional conferences to share with others in your field.

discussion points for **business** and **community leaders**

Business and community leaders are in a unique position to address the needs of teachers and to improve the quality of our schools.

Screen TEACH within your organization and discuss some of the ways you can make an impact.

Discussion points:

- What kind of mentoring services can individuals in your organization contribute to a classroom?
- How can a donation fund or goods be made to a local school?
- What can your organization do to influence legislature to address educational needs?
- How can your organization increase awareness of the need for qualified teachers and support recruitment?



take action



Encourage people to **take action**. Even small steps will help people feel empowered.

Suggestions of what you can do:

- Volunteer to read or tutor at a local school.
- Support local “Adopt-A-School” and “Be A Mentor” programs in your community.
- Ask a teacher if they are short on supplies and make a donation.
- Organize a town hall discussion around the issue of the teacher shortage. Involve local politicians in the conversation.
- Become a teacher.

Web sites that will help you learn more:

THE FIRST YEAR

www.pbs.org/firstyear

CAL TEACH

www.calteach.com

RECRUITING NEW TEACHERS

www.rnt.org

sponsors

THE FIRST YEAR and TEACH
were made possible by
the generous support of
The California State University and
The J. Paul Getty Trust.



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www.getty.edu