



# Our Stolen Futures

A Viewing Guide

ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH FORUM

## Film Synopsis:

For today's youth and young adults, climate change is an all too clear and present threat to their lives and their futures. Desperate to channel their anger and despair into hope and change, many have joined the youth-led Sunrise Movement to initiate and engage in active protests and political actions. *Our Stolen Futures* follows three Bay Area young women (Mo, Jackie and Muriel) as they lead the charge in confronting our political leaders and refusing to take no for an answer.

Film Notes: Documentary - Director Connie Field | US 2020 | 40 min | Grades 5–12

## As you watch...

- What techniques are used by the leaders of the Sunrise Movement to encourage politicians to listen to their message? Which techniques work? What would you do to get politicians to listen?
- Think about the ways leaders of the Sunrise Movement engage their members - What was effective? How do they use historical examples of protest?
- What tools can be used to engage people who may not agree with you?
- What do you learn about the Democratic presidential debate process that you didn't know before? What do you learn about specific candidates? Does it make you change your mind about anything?
- Read the t-shirts and signs in the movie - Which ones are most impactful in your opinion? Why do you think this is?



## What did you think...

- What advice would you give to politicians as they listen to young constituents? How could Dianne Feinstein have handled the conversation with youth differently?
- What is the power of social media in activist movements like Sunrise? How did the Sunrise Movement use social media to its advantage? How might you consider using social media to influence changes you want to see locally and more broadly?
- Mo Zuckerman says, "The most basic of inheritances, a liveable climate and air and water, is being stolen for profit." Do you agree and in what way? Who is "stealing" this inheritance?
- Were there voices and/or perspectives that you felt were missing in this movie?
- Is this movie one with a happy ending? Which parts of the movie were hopeful?
- What message would you write to the current administration about environmental priorities? What connections might you make to other issues the administration might be prioritizing - Covid, healthcare, housing, social justice?



## Next Steps...

- Learn more about the [Sunrise Movement](#) - How can you get involved? What issues are they foregrounding in this moment?
- Learn about the current [administration's](#) cabinet. How might you influence these members? What initiatives are being/could be created? What can you learn about their environmental work?
- Investigate other youth activists/organizations: [Xiye Bastida](#), [Future Coalition](#), [Xiuhtezcatl Martinez](#), who/what else?