

## Facilitated Discussion Questionnaire for “My New Friends”

This is a tool that adolescent service providers can use to engage youth in a discussion of the video, My New Friends, and its themes, depictions of various prescription drugs, and the main character’s experiences with them.

**Goal:** To increase viewers’ critical thinking as it relates to the use of pharmaceutical substances and the social determinants that contribute to their misuse.

**Objectives:**

**By the end of this discussion participants will be able to:**

- Describe the potential negative outcomes of recreational misuse of prescription drugs.
- Identify the main character’s motivations for misusing the medications represented in the video.
- State one way to access resources for help with substance abuse

The story depicts a young man being introduced to three people at a party. Each of these people represents a prescription drug that is commonly misused by young people in the community, Xanax, Oxycontin, and liquid Codeine. We see the character in different tough situations that drive his use of a drug to cope with each circumstance. These situations reflect themes of feeling disconnected, a difficult homelife, and racism.

In the final scene we see the character telling the “friends” that he needs “space,” at which point the friends retaliate by encroaching and overpowering him. That scene ends with a shot of the character lying on the floor of his bedroom surrounded by varying pills after an apparent overdose. However, the story ends with our character still at the party where he was introduced to the drugs snapping out of a daydream; the events that were depicted were all in his imagination as he considered their respective potential impact on his daily life.

Try to only ask questions as you facilitate this discussion, even when you want to emphasize particular aspects and points.

**Questions for youth after viewing:**

- How would you explain this story in your own words?
- What did the “friends” in the story represent? How do you know?
- Do you think teens who see this story will know what it is trying to depict? Why or why not?
- Do you think this is an accurate portrayal of teens’ use of prescription drugs?
  - What’s inaccurate? What’s true?

- Does anyone know anyone who has had a similar experience as the ones shown in the video?
- What does the video say the viewer can do?
- How do you think this was made/produced? Would it surprise you to know that other teens wrote, acted in, and produced this video?
- What does the video suggest could happen?
- What happens at the end of the party scene?
- What happens at the end of the story?
- Did the main character overdose, or did he just imagine it?
- What did he imagine the “friends” possible impact on his life could be?
- (If critiqued negatively) What would you have done differently? How could they have made it better?
- (Small group work) If you made a video with other teens, what would you make and what would you want to say and how would you do it?

### Options:

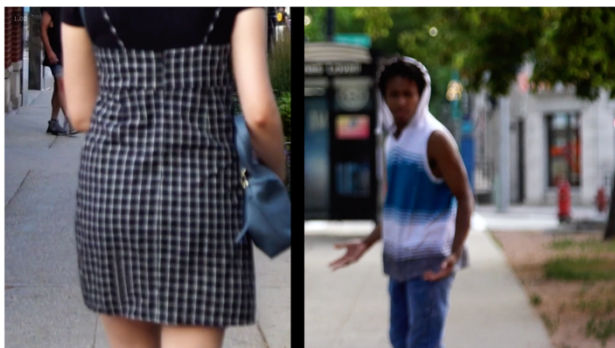
Facilitators can view the video in advance and identify specific time codes to go back to after the video is over. Or, facilitators can pause the video at different points (predetermined time codes) to ask the group questions about what they think is happening in those moments.

### A few examples:



**Pause at 00:51** – What do you think Leana represents?

**Pause at 02:54** – What just happened to the main character? Why do you think it happened?



**Pause at 04:00** – Why are the “friends” closing in on the main character? What did they do it in response to and why?

