

Suggestions for Using Movies in a Culture Class (taken from *American Ways Teacher's Resource Manual*, ISBN 0-13-192418-4)

The movies listed at the end of each chapter can be used to augment discussion of the ideas in the chapter. These movies are either classics or more recent films, both of which were chosen because they are more likely to be available on videotape or DVD. These movies not only extend the discussion and activities in the chapter, they also offer an opportunity to augment the listening component of the culture course.

We recommend that you review each movie carefully before deciding to use even a part of it with a class. Look especially for language, depiction of male-female relationships, violence, or any other content which might be objectionable to your students. Since you will likely be able to use only a very small portion of any movie in class, it should be possible to find an appropriate sequence that is both relevant to the discussion and not culturally offensive.

Here are some general suggestions for activities for students when using a movie:

- Watch a segment with the sound off and ask students to note the setting, the characters, and the mood. Students may also be asked to predict what the characters are saying or to write a dialogue for the characters based just on what they have seen.
- Listen to a segment without the picture and discuss what the video might provide. Then have students look at the movie and compare their imagined scene with the actual video.
- Watch and listen to a segment and predict what follows or precedes it.
- Predict an ending or develop a new ending.
- Focus on only one character and then write a brief character description.
- Focus on the physical and emotional setting of the movie. Describe the ways that the setting is conveyed.
- Develop dialogue for the characters.
- Role play some scenes.
- Have students watch different movies and do oral or written reviews of them. Reviews should include a summary of the plot, a scene that

students particularly remember, and a statement of whether they would recommend the movie to others. You may wish to use the following Activity Master: **Critic's Corner**