

BackStreet to the AMERICAN DREAM

Survival isn't trendy. It's the only way forward.

Food as a Bridge: Building Community Through Street Food

Study Guide & Lesson Plan

- Educational Settings: High school / college / junior college / cultural centers
- Runtime options: 54 min. + four Discussion Sessions, 90 min. feature, 110 min. Director's Cut
- Prep time: Minimal / Moderate
- Standard Alignment:
Common Core ELA, C3 Framework for Social Studies, Ethnic Studies, Sociology

Description:

A raw, intimate portrait of race, labor, and class in modern-day America. Set at the peak of the food truck boom, this bilingual film follows blue-collar entrepreneurs navigating visibility and survival on the streets of Los Angeles.

Themes:

Labor • Entrepreneurship • Immigration • Urban Development • Gentrification
Street Food • Latino Culture • Systemic Racism • Pop Culture • Latin Studies

An educational lens on immigration, labor, and community through pop culture.



Backstreet to the American Dream

STUDY GUIDE & LESSON PLAN

*Food as a Bridge: Building
Community Through Street Food*

Table of Contents

Cover Page	1
Contextual Framework: Migration, Policy, and Power	2–3
How to Use This Guide	4
Day 1: Main Film Screening (54 mins.) Themes: The American Dream, social perceptions, and street food	5
Day 2: Discussion Session #1 (16 mins.) Themes: Pop culture, immigrant communities and informal economies	6
Day 3: Discussion Session #2 (13 mins.) Themes: Community, regulations, and survival	7
Day 4: Discussion Session #3 (9 mins.) Themes: Social justice, cultural change, collective action	8
Day 5: Discussion Session #4 (10 mins.) Themes: Voices from segregated Los Angeles	9
Reflections	10
Activities & Extensions	11
Sources & Further Reading	12