

The U.S. and the Holocaust Programming Suggestions

What is *The U.S. and the Holocaust*?

[*The U.S. and the Holocaust*](#) is a three-part, six-and-a-half hour documentary film directed by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick, and Sarah Botstein. It debuted on PBS nationwide in September 2022. The film was partially inspired by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibition. Many of the themes present in the film echo the themes of the exhibition, and the exhibition's curator and historian both appear in the documentary. Host libraries received a DVD copy with screening rights during the May 2024 training in Washington, DC.

How can *The U.S. and the Holocaust* be used for programming?

The film's running time—six-and-a-half hours—is too long for standard programming. However, you have options should you choose to use the film as part of your programming.

1) Clip Reel

WETA, the PBS station in Washington, DC, which was the programming partner for this film, has provided a 45-minute clip reel with selections from all three episodes of the documentary. If you would like to consider utilizing the clip reel as part of your programming, please contact Eric Schmalz (eschmalz@ushmm.org) who will send you more information and a Box link where you can download the clip reel. Please note that the clip reel is not to be distributed, and cannot be used as part of a virtual or hybrid event.

2) Thematic clips to support a program

If you are planning a program on a specific theme and would like to use a clip from the film, you can find short segments on the [PBS Learning Media website](#). The clips relate to the themes of Media, Public Opinion, and Individual Choice; Immigration and the Refugee Crisis; Nazism and Antisemitism; and World War II and the Holocaust. Lesson plans, also included on the site, utilize the clips and may serve as inspiration for your programming.

Please note that as with all films, there should be a participation component to your program. Should you decide to show clips from the film, you (or a designated expert) will need to moderate a community discussion after viewing, or arrange for some sort of additional active programming component. PBS has prepared a [community discussion guide](#), where you may find questions to help guide your conversation.