



“Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial” Hosting a Viewing Party

Getting Ready

- **Check when the show is set to air on your PBS station.** The program is set to air on Tuesday November 13, 2007, at 8:00 pm on most PBS stations. Sometimes local stations will air programs at different times. Double-check the schedule for your local PBS station to confirm the time they will be carrying the broadcast.
- **Decide on a location and start time.** If you’re holding the party at the same time as the airing of Judgment Day, you may want to invite people an hour before the broadcast begins to give them time to meet and mingle before the start of the show.
- **Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, anyone!** Send an e-mail (see sample below) and follow up with phone calls to encourage people to attend. *(As a rule of thumb, about half the people who say they will attend actually do so. Invite more people than you can accommodate.)*
**Send out a reminder e-mail a day or two before the viewing party.
- **Offering food is always a good idea.** You could consider having a potluck and encourage others to bring snacks or desserts.
- **Photocopy any materials you would like to hand out.** See below for materials list. You may want to look at NOVA’s website for the show (www.pbs.org/nova/id/) or ACLU websites (www.aclupa.org/dover or www.aclu.org/religion/intelligentdesign/) for more information.
- **Test your TV** and get it set to the right channel. Provide plenty of places to sit.
- **Decide on an agenda for the party.** See sample agenda below.
- **Let your local ACLU office know you’re hosting a party.** We can send you additional materials, answer questions, and help with planning.

Throwing the Party

- **Welcome your guests and ask them to introduce themselves.** If you want, you can provide name tags. You may want to break the ice by asking why people are interested in the topic or what they were taught about evolution when they were in school.
- **Encourage guests to sign in** on the ACLU-PA sign-in sheet. They can make a note on the sheet if they are interested in hosting future viewing parties or discussion groups.
- **View the show.**
- **After the show ends, get some discussion going** with questions or topics that you’ve prepared, or use the sample questions below.
- **Hand out “Get Involved” sheet** before everyone leaves and encourage them to stay involved in supporting civil liberties.
- **Thank everyone for coming.**

Follow-up

- **Fax or mail the sign-in sheet to the ACLU-PA office near you.** E-mail us to let us know how your viewing party went. If you have digital pictures, please send those, too!

If you have questions, contact your local ACLU office:

Eastern Office
P.O. Box 40008
Philadelphia, PA 19106
1-877-PHL-ACLU
Fax: 215-592-1343
info@aclupa.org

Central Office
P.O. Box 11761
Harrisburg, PA 17108
1-877-HBG-ACLU
Fax: 717-236-6895
hbginfo@aclupa.org

Western Office
313 Atwood St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
1-877-PGH-ACLU
Fax: 412-681-8707
info@aclupgh.org

Materials Needed:

- TV that receives PBS broadcasts and seating for your guests
- ACLU-PA sign-in sheet
- Q&A on Intelligent Design
- “Get Involved” handout

Sample invitation e-mail:

Dear friends,

Come see a great documentary at my place on Nov. 13! Anyone remember the Dover intelligent design case back in 2005 that happened right here in PA? It was the evolution vs. creationism debate of our time. The case, led by the ACLU of Pennsylvania, came about in response to the local school board in Dover, PA, requiring the teaching of intelligent design in biology classes as an alternative to Darwin’s theory of evolution.

NOVA (PBS) is airing a show on Tuesday, Nov. 13, that recreates parts of the trial and shares interviews with townspeople, scientists, and lawyers involved in the case. I’m hosting a viewing party at _____ to watch the show and talk about it. The party will start at 7:00 with some food and drinks, and then we’ll watch “Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial,” which runs from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., and have a brief talk about it afterwards.

Although I’m providing some food and beverages, feel free to bring whatever you would like. I would appreciate an RSVP so I know how many people to expect. Phone: _____.

The Dover case made a huge impact on church/state issues in schools and how science is taught in the classroom. It would be fun to have the opportunity to learn and talk about it more with you! Hope you can make it.

P.S. – View a preview of the show here: www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/preview/i_3416.html

Sample agenda:

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| 7:00-7:30 | Guests arrive, sign in, mingle, and eat. |
| 7:30-7:50 | Welcome and introductions. Circulate sign-in sheet. |
| 7:50-8:00 | Get settled and ready for viewing. Hand out Q&A and discussion questions. |
| 8:00-10:00 | View “Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial.” |
| 10:00-10:20 | Discuss people’s responses to the show. |
| 10:20-10:30 | Wrap-up: Distribute “Get Involved” handout. Thank everyone for coming. |

Sample discussion questions:

- What struck you most as you watched this show?
- What did you learn about evolution when you were in school? Have things changed?
- Is science being challenged in other places that we know of? Have there been debates like this within our own community? Our own schools?
- What did the residents of Dover do to challenge the school board’s policy – besides taking legal action? What can we learn from their successes and challenges?
- Are there other civil liberties issues in Pennsylvania that concern you? What can we do to support civil liberties in our state and/or in our communities?