

General Discussion Questions

- Do you think the visibility of trans* narratives through film benefits the lives and visibility of transgender people?
- How does experiencing the familial rejection of an LGBT identity through film bring awareness to the real threat of homelessness and housing instability for LGBT youth?
- Housing instability and homelessness are directly correlated to many of the situations presented through these films (family rejection, poverty, abuse, etc.). Which theme struck you the most?
- Are there any common themes of resilience (chosen families, community organizing) that jump out to you?
- Think about your own community; what steps can you take to help end youth homelessness?

Paris is Burning Specific Questions

- For many LGBT youth experiencing homelessness, chosen, intentional families are crucial to their survival. Why are intentional families so important? How are these chosen families illustrated in this film? What are the traits of a chosen family?
- Critics have described this documentary as being exploitative of trans people of color, particularly because the filmmaker was white and profited off trans narratives while many subjects died in poverty or were murdered. Is there a way to make an intentional documentary as an “outsider”, or should it be left to the subjects themselves?