

Website helps teachers utilize the power of movies

The Hollywood film industry produces movies to make us laugh, make us cry, make us scared, make us more ethical ... more socially developed ... better-educated. Now there's a web-based company, TeachWithMovies.com, that helps classroom teachers bring these lessons home.

With an eye towards an intensely visual youth culture, the company has launched an educational Internet resource to help K-12 teachers use popular films to supplement traditional classroom learning, foster social development and teach ethics.

The site offers curriculum materials in subjects ranging from science, visual arts, history and math to social development topics such as families in crisis, friendship, alcohol and drug abuse, coming of age, sportsmanship and human rights.

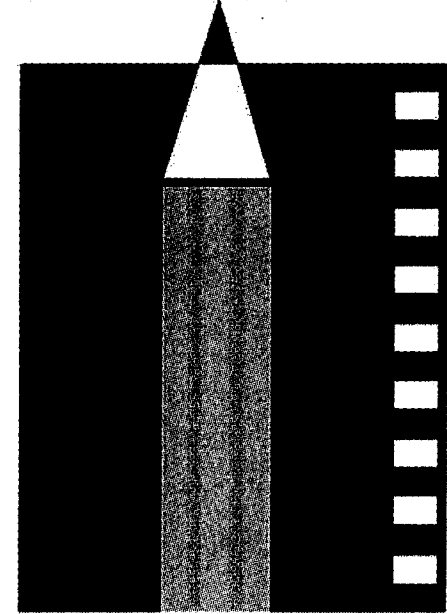
The project began when cofounders James Frieden and Deborah Elliott showed their son the movie *Gandhi* to support his study of the Civil Rights Movement. His overwhelmingly positive response and thoughtful questions after he viewed the movie sparked their quest to find

more films to enhance the education of their children.

"By watching and discussing films as a family, not only were we entertained, but our children's knowledge and range of emotional experience increased. We realized that we could create something valuable, something useful, not only to parents but to teachers as well," says James Frieden.

Together these parents began to research films to provide a supplement to school curriculum, a concept that spurred the launch of TeachWithMovies.com. The current website pre-

teach with movies



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sents movie selections accompanied by carefully prepared Learning Guides to aid teachers in creating lesson plans tailored for their particular classes.

The thoroughly researched Guides are often developed in collaboration with credentialed teachers and university professors. They provide an evaluation of the film's accuracy while focusing on particular parts of the curriculum that teachers are required to

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