



Age Ratings You Trust

## **BBFC Education visits: what to expect**

The BBFC's Education team provides information and resources to assist students and teachers in learning about classification and regulation of film and video material in the UK.

We offer presentations to schools and colleges. The usual format of the presentation combines a PowerPoint presentation covering:

- the history of the BBFC
- the legislation under which we work
- the classification process
- classification issues
- our accountability and Classification Guidelines
- broader issues of regulation such as the online and mobile work we do and issues of legal downloading and piracy

These areas are illustrated by clips from films, trailers, adverts and DVDs. Students also have the opportunity to ask questions throughout. There is some flexibility in terms of presentation length but generally sessions last around 1.5 - 2 hours.

Clips may include issues such as horror, violence, sex references, bad language, discriminatory language or controversial decisions, which will be discussed in the session. For pupils with hearing difficulties, we have a number of clips to which subtitles in English have been added. Please tell us well in advance if any of your students require this.

School and university visits are typically given by a member of the BBFC Education team, who are also experienced BBFC Examiners, and so are able to answer questions about classification generally and specific decisions. If you have detailed questions about a specific film, or if there is any particular area of study, eg horror, or strong language, and you would like to discuss this at the session, then it is helpful to mention this to your speaker in advance so they can be prepared.

It is possible for speakers to give presentations about specific subject areas or films, but this must be discussed and agreed in advance, preferably at the time of booking. If students are working on specific films it is useful to let us know in advance, even if you would prefer a general presentation. This means the speaker can ensure that he or she is familiar with the issues relating to any specific film being studied.

Similarly, it is possible for our team to take part in different sorts of external events – discussion panels, short film competitions, student film festivals, discussion of exam film texts. This should be discussed in advance with the BBFC's Head of Education, Lucy Brett, on [education@bbfc.co.uk](mailto:education@bbfc.co.uk).

### **Group sizes**

The BBFC Education Department has limited resources, so we generally try to prioritise visiting larger groups of around 50 or more pupils and teachers, or where



Age Ratings You Trust

institutions can work together to host a joint event. Our sessions have proved of interest to students from a wide range of disciplines, so if you teach a Film or Media Studies class of a limited size, you may wish to consider whether others in your school might benefit from joining a BBFC session. By arrangement, we can sometimes hold two separate, slightly shorter talks on the same day, to different age groups.

We also work with partners such as the BFI, Film Nation and independent cinemas eg the Picturehouse chain – so there may already be events in your local area at which we are involved.

We also offer videoconferencing facilities: currently most sessions are short discussions, rather than full presentations (no clips are played during conferences, as the quality is variable). Video conference sessions can be used flexibly, for example, as a Q&A on a particular film that a class is studying, or to discuss films/trailers made by students as part of their coursework. For more information, please read the BBFC web page on videoconferencing: <http://www.bbfc.co.uk/education-resources/teacher-guide/book-video-conference>

### **Age appropriate material**

To ensure only age appropriate material is shown, you must confirm the age of your students before the visit, and whether parental permission has been obtained to view clips in an Educational context, if from a category above the age of the youngest students attending the talk.

We can email a summary of the BBFC Guidelines to you or you can download the entire document from the BBFC website at <http://www.bbfc.co.uk/what-classification/guidelines>.

### **Technical requirements**

Your BBFC speaker will have a PowerPoint presentation and a selection of clips; these are available either on a memory stick or on the speaker's laptop. Please arrange with your speaker beforehand whether they need to bring their own PC to the talk, or if they are able to plug their memory stick into the PC at your venue. The clips require sound and can be played via Windows Media Player. You will therefore need to provide the speaker with a connection to your projector via a VGA cable and a sound wire.

Most BBFC speakers are experienced at using smartboards and other conference style equipment, but it is always a good idea to build some preparation time into the programme to check that the presentation and clips are working. Sometimes clips can prove difficult to play on Macs, so please advise the speaker if your venue only has a Mac.



Age Ratings You Trust

It is sometimes possible to use DVDs of clips if necessary, although please request this in advance.

If you would like a copy of the BBFC standard PowerPoint presentation then we can send this to you.

### **Travel**

The BBFC is a not for profit organisation and there is no charge for a BBFC session. However, we do ask institutions with a budget for visiting speakers and events to contribute towards our travel costs where possible.

Speakers are usually travelling from the London area so please give them the benefit of local knowledge regarding public transport, local road works, access to the school/college etc.

### **School visits – what we expect**

Student groups must be supervised by their teachers at all times. BBFC speakers are not all CRB checked, nor necessarily trained teachers, and do not run sessions alone or unaccompanied.

Please remain in contact with your speaker regarding the logistics of your visit and ensure they have a contact number for you at all times, preferably a mobile number in case of travel delays on the day of your talk.

Schools and university campuses are large and often have many entrances and exits – please ensure your speaker knows the most appropriate place to meet you and send a map or details of your school address to them before the visit.

Sometimes schools or universities ask BBFC speakers to give multiple talks in one day – for example to different year groups. This is a good use of our resources, but please allow time for a short break between sessions, and appropriate refreshments where possible.

### **Interviews, feedback, media**

Students often want to film parts of presentations, or conduct mini-interviews as part of their coursework. Similarly, students sometimes want to blog about a visit. This can usually be accommodated, but please discuss with your speaker in advance so they can build time for it into their travel plans.

Similarly we are usually happy to work with local media (eg local newspapers) or youth media outlets (eg school radios or media blogs) if they are covering a session or event at a school/college/festival but this should be discussed in advance.

Feedback on our education work is extremely useful for us so please ensure you let us know how the visit went on [education@bbfc.co.uk](mailto:education@bbfc.co.uk) or via twitter @bbfc