

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE STORY OF PINTINHO

Brazil at a Glance: Capital City	Brasilia		
Population	165 million (estimate for 1995)		
% of Population	21.3% 10-19 years old		
Surface Area	3,286,681 square miles		
Languages	Portuguese		
What Things Cost: chocolate bar	\$1.05	cola	\$.42
music tape	\$8.95		
Average Life	66.3	Expectancy	
Political Regime	Federative Republic		

Figures from the World Resources Institute 1992-93 Guide To The Global Environment.

BEFORE THE FILM:

The role of sports is examined in this segment of the TURNING 16 series. Throughout the world, sport figures are admired, and sometimes worshipped, as role models by people both young and old. The allure of a life filled with money and celebrity tempts many, even if few can attain such glamorous heights. Often a sports career is seen as a way out of the slums for many unskilled and uneducated youths.

Do you think sports figures deserve the attention they get? What do they provide society that makes them so appealing and or deserving of our attention? How do you respond to people who say money and hero worship shouldn't be squandered on sports figures, but should justifiably be given to more worthy recipients, such as scientists, researchers, educators and others who contribute to society?

Would you give up school and education to pursue a sports career (or something similar like music or acting)? Is the allure of sports-like success greater for people from poor economic backgrounds? Disenfranchised youth might see this as an easier avenue to success than working their way through years of schooling. But the percentage of people who make a living in professional sports is about equal to winning the lottery. Would you risk your future by playing the lottery rather than planning for a career?

Brazil

The Story of Pintinho

Are sports a ticket to the future?

"There are thousands of Brazilian kids who want to play for the Flamengo and don't have this chance. I have to prove to everyone that I can do it."

Like most of his Brazilian contemporaries, Pintinho has a passion for soccer. He's been training for years and his dream is now in sight. Will he manage to kick his way out of the slums and into stardom as a member of the famous Flamengo team?

AFTER THE FILM:

Pintinho is poor. He has no formal education. For him, soccer offers a way out of the slums and a chance to make a better life for himself and his mother. The pressure to succeed is tremendous.

Considering the average life of a Brazilian teenager - homelessness, poverty and drugs - do you think Pintinho is making a good choice in pursuing soccer? Compare the opportunities you have with those of Pintinho. Do you think poor American youth with limited opportunities should pursue sports careers to get themselves out of poverty?

Pintinho's team stresses education with their training, but athletes in the U.S. frequently leave college to "go pro." What happens to an aspiring sports star with little or no education who is dropped from a team due to injury?



Series of eight 26 minute programs

Youth and the Global Village (Introduction)

Do teens around the world hold similar views on issues such as marriage, culture and religion?

The Story of Rosie (Jamaica)

What is the role of the family?

The Story of Idrissa (Niger)

Are cultural values being threatened?

The Story of Eman (Egypt)

Do men and women share the same rights and freedoms?

The Story of Pintinho (Brazil)

Are sports a ticket to the future?

The Story of Puttinan (Thailand)

Are young people being exploited?

The Story of Sonam (India)

Do teens believe in God?

Youth and the Future (Conclusion)

How do teens feel about their future?

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