



Picture found at... [http://notquiteamerican.files.wordpress.com/2008/05/poster\\_crash\\_movie.jpg](http://notquiteamerican.files.wordpress.com/2008/05/poster_crash_movie.jpg)

## Crash – discussion about prejudice

### Director: Paul Haggis

We will watch the movie “Crash” and then we will sit into groups and have a discussion concerning the film and prejudices. Here are some questions to think about before, during and after the film:

1. Some film critics think that the characters in “Crash” are too stereotypical – more archetypes than human beings.

Explain what is meant by this argument.

2. In one of the first scenes we meet Peter (Larenz Tate) and

Anthony (Chris Bridges, a.k.a. the rapper Ludacris). A film critic wrote about this specific scene in the Boston Globe, and thought that instead of exploding racial clichés, the scene “really just reinforces ones we already live with.” What does the critic mean?

3. The character (film director) Cameron (Terrence Howard) gets offended on set by his producer. What makes Cameron so upset?

4. A Swedish critic (Nöjesguiden) wrote that “Crash” is about lonesome people but still not isolated people. What does that mean?

5. The same critic mentioned the scene where police detective Graham (Don Cheadle) first calls his girlfriend white and then Mexican. Why do you think the critic found this scene interesting?

6. Hanson’s (Ryan Phillippe) chief – the police commissioner – does not want to make a big thing out of police Ryan’s (Matt Dillon) racial behaviour. Why?

7. A film critic wrote in the Washington Post that Haggis “humanizes” Ryan’s character, which shows that “racism and nobility can exist in the same man.” What does the critic refer to?

8. Why does the Los Angeles district attorney (Brendan

Fraser) worry so much about the fact that the two men who carjacked his Lincoln Navigator were African Americans?

9. A film critic wrote in the New Yorker:

“Crash is about the rage and foolishness produced by intolerance, the mutual abrasions of white, black, Latino, Middle Eastern, and Asian citizens in an urban pot in which nothing melts. The characters run afoul of each other ...”

What does the critic mean?

10. Why cannot the Iranian shopkeeper Farhad (Shaun Toub) understand why someone (they who trashed his store) has written “Arabs” on the walls?

11. The New Yorker-critic also wrote about “two daughters who save their fathers.” Which daughters?

12. Finally, what did you think about the movie, and why?