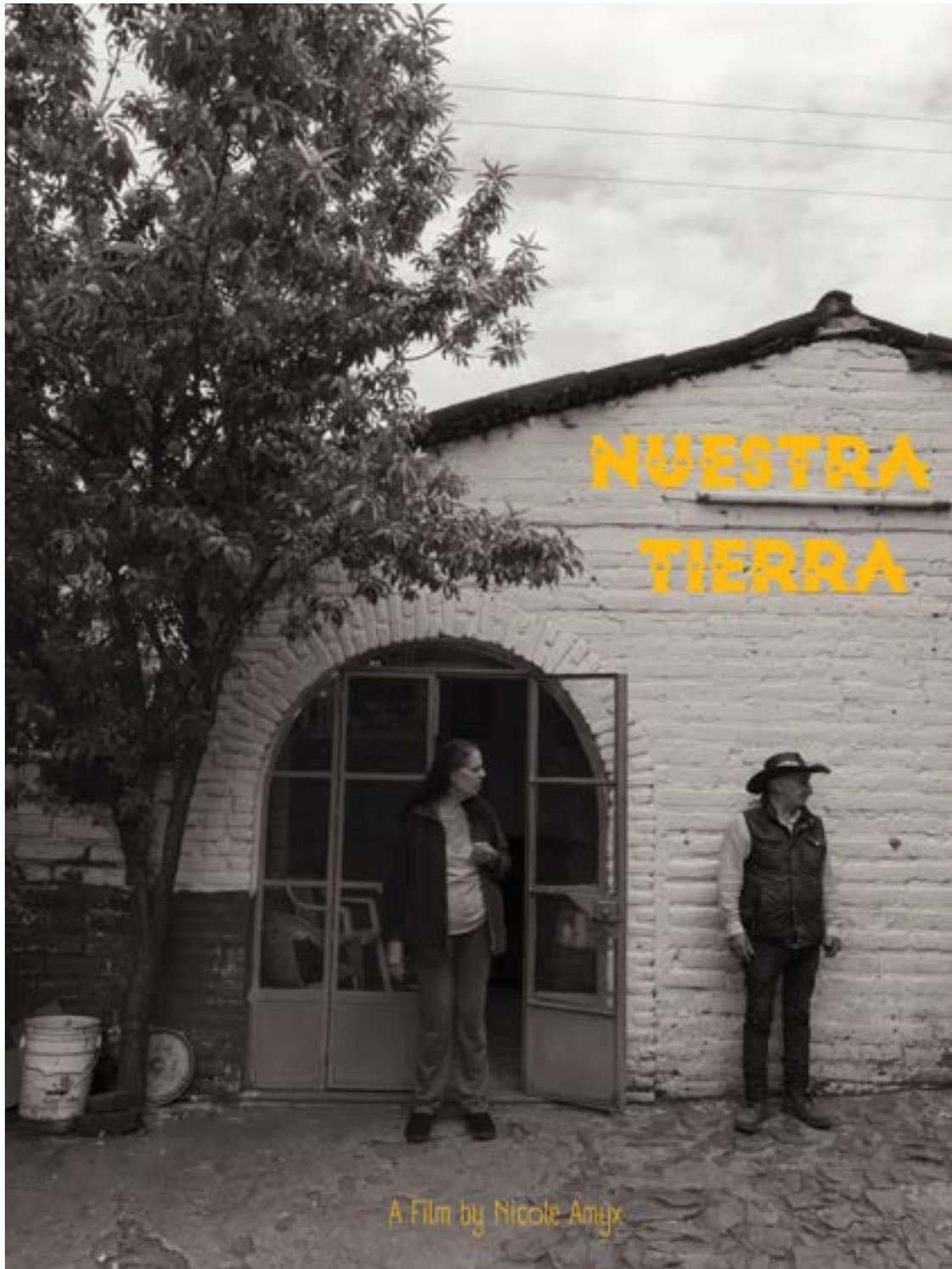


CAFILM EDUCATION

# FILMMAKERS GO TO SCHOOL



**CURRICULUM GUIDE**  
GRADES: 8-12

# FILMMAKERS GO TO SCHOOL



## ABOUT THE FILM

**Nuestra Tierra**  
**Nicole Gascon Amyx | US/Mexico 2025 |**  
**10 min | Grades 9-12**

*Nuestra Tierra* is a short and sweet verite film following a day in the life of Nacha and Pancho in Jesus Maria, Mexico. With the slow pacing style, we get an intimate view into their world. Through their connection to their home and land, we see a simple, yet beautiful way of life.

"Everything is really pretty. The tranquility is nice. We live comfortably here."

## IMPACT

"*Nuestra Tierra* is a window to a rural ranch house in the Highlands of Jalisco, Mexico. At odds with our fast paced world, driven by money and power, this film shows the beauty of a slow and simple life. Though the film is situated in Rural Mexico, students will learn the global message that living a life in harmony with the land, of which we are custodians, is a fulfilling and important existence." Director, Nicole Gascon Amyx.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Nicole Amyx is a Mexican-American Documentary Filmmaker and Editor. She works on a large variety of projects, from large, studio feature documentaries and docu-series to independent, grassroots short films. Using Documentary Filmmaking as a platform to help drive change and evoke emotion, she believes that filmmakers have the unique privilege of sharing stories that would otherwise be unknown. Drawn to human stories, she has a deep love for her Mexican heritage and the stories tied to under-represented communities. She also has a strong passion for sports and the great outdoors. Amyx has worked on a variety of Documentaries that have premiered at festivals across the U.S and projects streaming in Netflix, Amazon and PBS.



# VIEWING GUIDE CAUGHT ON CAMERA: TRUTH, RELEVANCE, & IMPACT

## How to Use this Thinking Routine:

What happens when the camera listens instead of leads? What story emerges when people are not performing, but living? Not all films tell stories with scripts, actors, or dramatic plot twists. Some films find meaning by paying attention - by following real people, asking simple questions, and letting life unfold as it is. The film you are about to watch does not just record reality, it selects, frames, and amplifies. What the camera notices, and what it ignores, shapes truth, relevance, and impact. While you watch, pay attention to what the filmmaker chooses to follow and note what is caught on camera.

## WHAT THE CAMERA NOTICES

WHAT THE CAMERA NOTICES	
<p><b>People &amp; Daily Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who do we spend time with?</li> <li>What ordinary moments does the film linger on?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Framing &amp; Distance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When does the camera stay close to <b>people</b>?</li> <li>When does it pull back and observe from a distance?</li> <li>How do these choices shape our relationship to the subjects?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Setting &amp; Story</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is rural Mexico presented?</li> <li>What details make the setting feel lived in rather than explained?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Movement &amp; Stillness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What moments feel "active"?</li> <li>Which moments feel "still"?</li> <li>How does the balance between movement and stillness reflect the rhythm of the life shown?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Time &amp; Pacing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the film feel slow, fast, or steady?</li> <li>How does the pacing reflect the lives being shown?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Moments that Might Seem "Unimportant" or "Insignificant"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why might the filmmaker include moments that don't advance a clear plot?</li> <li>How do these moments help the film feel honest or real?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Work &amp; Repetition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What tasks do we see repeated?</li> <li>How does watching work unfold in real time change how we value it?</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is Not Explained</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the film choose not to explain or translate to the audience?</li> <li>How does this refusal to over-explain create trust or respect?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sound &amp; Silence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What sounds are natural to this place?</li> <li>When does the film allow silence, and how does this affect the mood?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Attention as Meaning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the camera return to again and again?</li> <li>What might the filmmaker be saying simply by paying attention to these things?</li> </ul>

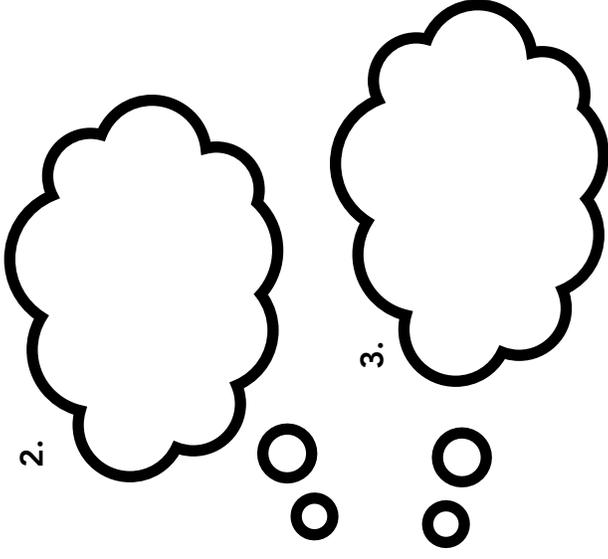
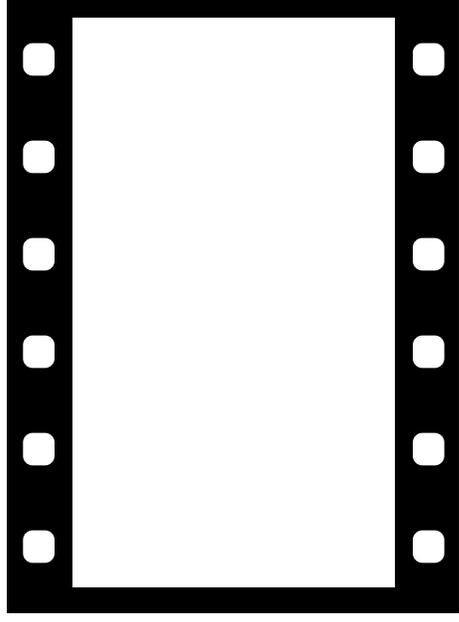
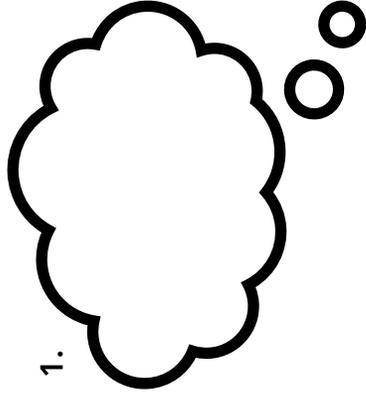
# BEHIND THE LENS TRUTH IN FRAME: A DOCUMENTARY SNAPSHOT

## How to Use this Thinking Routine:

A documentary is made up of thousands of images, but each image is a choice. In this activity, you will focus on one meaningful moment from Nuestra Tierra and study it closely to think about truth, perspective, and framing. Filmmakers call this kind of frozen image a frame grab - one still frame from a moving film so we can really look at it closely.

## Directions:

- Select one moment from the documentary that feels important, revealing, emotionally charged, visually striking, or ethically complicated.
- Recreate the Frame. Sketch the image as accurately as you can. Focus on composition, people, objects, space, angle, distance, and light. This is not about artistic skill, but about seeing carefully.
- Write brief responses to each prompt in the corresponding spaces.
  1. What does the frame show? What is visibly and factually present?  
*Who is there? What are they doing? Where is the viewer? How is the camera positioned?*
  2. What does the frame imply? What ideas, emotions, or assumptions might a viewer take from this image?  
*What does this moment suggest about power, truth, conflict, or character?*
  3. What does the frame omit? What is outside the frame?  
*What context, voices, actions, or information are missing, but matter?*



## Wrap-Up Reflection:

Write from the perspective of a thoughtful viewer addressing the filmmaker directly. Explain why the moment stayed with you and how it deepens the meaning or message of the documentary. Why does this moment matter?

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