

1. This film was built on a specific incident that occurred near Oakland in 2009. Oscar Grant was shot and killed in Fruitvale Station by a police officer. The film's writers took ten years to complete the script and the film. They reported that they wish things had changed since they started it other than "people are starting to lose track of who is who because it happens so often."  
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2009/jan/09/subway-killing-video-footage>
2. Is this film a love letter or an indictment of the gentrification in modern Oakland? His mom says she's "not moving out of the neighborhood now that they have good food there." What has caused the shift in the neighborhood? Is it really wanted by the long term residents or unwanted?
3. If we define **toxic masculinity** as *suppressing emotions or masking distress, maintaining an appearance of hardness and utilizing violence as an indicator of power* (Salaam, Maya, "What is Toxic Masculinity, NYT), in what various ways is this behavior utilized by Miles and, more importantly, for what purpose?
  - a. In what way(s) does the filmmaker use Colin's character arc to make a comment about toxic masculinity? Is this arc believable in the "real world"? Apply this same question to Miles' son, Sean.
  - b. In the world of this film, is exhibiting the traits of toxic masculinity a choice for these men? How about in the "real world"? How about in Saratoga or Silicon Valley?
  - c. Do different forms of toxic masculinity exist within different cultures? For example, does toxic masculinity exist in Saratoga or Silicon Valley and if so, how is it different from the toxic masculinity portrayed in the film?
  - d. Do Collin and Miles have a choice as to whether or not they embody and utilize toxic masculinity? Why or why not?
4. In terms of a narrative arc and/or character development, what is the function or purpose of the parking lot scene?
  - a. **Obviously the n-word is historically, politically, personally and individually loaded with the power to harm, divide and dehumanize. That said, there is also a school of thought which distinguishes between ending the word with an "er" to inflict hurt or ending the word with an "a" to indicate friendship or familiarity between individuals of color. How does Colin use the n-word ending with an "a" in this scene? Is he using this word as a term of friendship or harm and why?**
  - b. Why is Colin so hurt and viscerally upset that Miles wouldn't refer to him as an n-word ending with an "a"?
  - c. In what way(s) does Miles' ethnicity complicate and/or add layers of meaning to this scene?
5. What is the role Miles' wife and child played in the film?
6. "No one thing is one thing." is a quote from the film's scriptwriter. What does he mean by this and how does he explore it in the film?

7. This film explores the “clap back era” that we live in where you score points on twitter with likes for attacking an idea and shooting from the hip rather than thinking about the nuances of opinion. How does Blindspotting encourage us to work on finding empathy for others?

8. This film analyses white privilege through the lens of a white man who doesn't really have the “privilege” in the traditional sense. Why did the writer make him a wannabe? What's up with the metal grill?

9. The term “Blindspotting.” What is it and why is that the title? The term “blindspotting” describes a perceptual dilemma best illustrated by Rubin's vase, that famous black-and-white image that tricks the eye into seeing either a piece of pottery or two faces in profile, but never both at the same time. As a metaphor for keeping your eyes and mind open, it's a pretty good one: We all see what we want to see, but if we're honest and open-hearted enough, we might be persuaded to see it the other way, too.

Does it apply to the modern world?

10. More universally, why is it seemingly more difficult to endure three days of “clean” behavior now that the stakes are so high? (Each day is so significant even when he wakes up at 6:25 which spells out O.A.K. on a phone) Shouldn't it be easier?

11. If you were to describe this movie in one word what would it be? For me it's fear, but it could be empathy, hate...why?

12. “Are you sure?”==best line. Question: Why is it the best line?

**13. The use of “heightened” language at the climax is similar to Shakespeare's use of language. The final scene**

**a. Notice that Collin has at least two weapons aimed at the police officer: a gun and his words? What is the emotional impact and/or purpose of the audience seeing both of these weapons simultaneously on screen?**

**b. Besides a gun and his words, what other weapons or “tools” does Colin utilize during this scene?**

14. Patrick, the head of the art gallery, claims “to stare is to see”. Do you agree with this? What role does “seeing” play in this film and how does this reflect what the filmmakers are trying to say about the economy of attention in today's world of readily available information (or misinformation)?