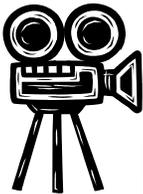


## Let's Talk About Water



The Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI) has developed a formula for using documentaries in earth science education. This easy to follow formula is based on experiences from several "Let's Talk About Water" events successfully presented at multiple college campuses.

**a film symposium designed to bring together experts and the public to talk about the complex water issues facing society.**



A documentary film



An expert panel



A Free Lunch

## Why Documentaries ?

- **YES** Documentary films create teachable moments by heightening student interest in environmental topics
- **YES** They engage the audience emotionally and tell a compelling story
- **YES** They often have some science content with "flashy" or "fun" graphics or animations that can help explain complex concepts
- **YES** They demonstrate the social relevance of science
- **YES** They provide an opportunity to impart critical thinking skills by challenging or examining the claims and assumptions presented in the movie from an objective science view point.
- **NO!** "because I'm going to a conference and I need my grad student to show something"

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## Setting Up a Successful Event

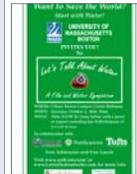
### 1. Identify and Attract your Audience

CUAHSI LTAW events have targeted lower-level undergraduates to teach them about water science and water careers

- Identify appropriate classes
- Work with other instructors on collaborative events
- Offer Extra Credit



### 2. Build the Buzz



- Advertise with student newspapers and media
- Work with student groups/ clubs

### 3. Add some "Star Power"

- If the budget allows, get a big name on the panel. (If it doesn't - ask anyway!)
- Include local water managers or advocates to lend credibility and local relevance

### 4. Prepare the Panel

- Get the panel together to view the film in advance
- Do it over dinner! Set a convivial and fun tone that will carry over to the event discussion.



## Successfully Running the Event

### Actively Manage the Discussion

- Collect Questions on Index Cards
- Keep Panelists on Point
  - "KISS" - Keep it simple, Scientist!
- Keep the discussion moving



### Provide A Free Lunch

- Between the film and discussion
- Students can talk with Panelists
- Moderators can organize questions
- Keeps the energy up

### Segue into Relevant Topics

- Give Panelists a chance to tell their "personal story"
- Talk about Careers

### End on a Good Note!

- Keep the discussion *Lively and Fun!*

Water is a serious subject,  
but students should walk away

*Inspired, Empowered and Excited!*

Ready, Set....

**GO** to our website to find resource materials and further information on the *Talk!* formula.

<http://www.cuahsi.org/ltaw.html>