

English Only in America? – Guide for Note-Taking

1. The film starts by giving a little bit of background. What led up to the formation of an “English Only Movement” in America?
2. What are the two major organizations that support the English Only movement? What kind of arguments do people from these organizations make in favor of English Only?
3. In 1974, what famous California case led to an increase in bilingual education? In 1986, what major piece of California legislation was passed to counter-act that 1974 case?
4. In the part of the film focusing on the women’s group, what are some of the arguments made against the English Only movement?
5. What are some of the arguments for Bilingual Education in the Mission District of San Francisco?

6. What was the situation at Pan Ready Foods?

Arguments for English-Only at PRF

Arguments against English-Only at PRF

7. The end of the film says that the debate about English-Only focuses on the “right of free speech,” and “linguistic freedom,” in a nation founded on liberty and democracy. But, in addition, the debate is about “national identity.” Answer the questions the end of this film poses: What does it mean to be an American? How much diversity can we tolerate now in the 21st Century?