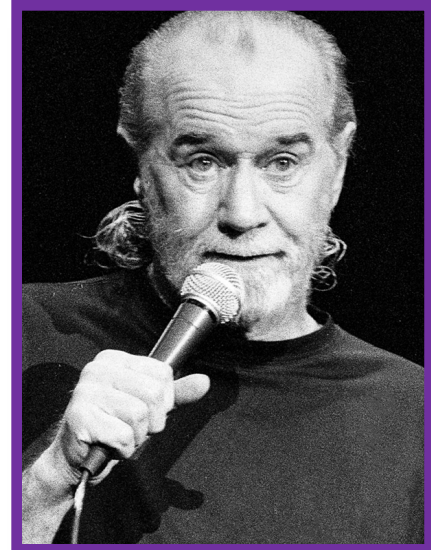


GEORGE CARLIN DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Description:

The following discussion prompts/questions are for use in Small group discussion. This document contains suggested prompts with background information/answers for the facilitator. These questions are not required, more so, they are provided as a resource should the discussion facilitator need suggestions.



Prompts/Questions:

1. **How did George Carlin evolve away from being a standard story-telling comic and what did he evolve into?**

Background for Facilitator: George Carlin's standup work evolved from his earlier work as a funny radio DJ. He went the straight standup comic route until the early 1970s. He made up funny characters like the Hippy-Dippy Weatherman and did funny story-telling, much like nearly all standup comics of his time. Then, in 1972, he took a good look at himself and realized that there was nothing of himself in his standup routines. After that, he ditched the suit and tie and became more and more the angry ranting old man taking the big swings at just about everyone whom he felt deserved them.

2. **What did the later George Carlin think of his earlier work as a comedian?**

Background for Facilitator: The later George Carlin held up a cardboard cutout of his earlier self as and proclaimed there was nothing of himself in his earlier routines. He said the routines had the depth of this piece of cardboard that he held in his hands.

3. **Did George Carlin know Lenny Bruce?**

Background for Facilitator: Yes, George Carlin did know Lenny Bruce. When Lenny was arrested at the Gate of Horn in Chicago in 1962, a young George Carlin was in the audience. George refused to provide identification to the Chicago police, so they threw him in the same paddy wagon that they used to take Lenny to the station. George later said that he hoped that if he was in the same paddy wagon as a witness, the SFPD might not beat Lenny up badly in the paddy wagon on the way to the station.

4. **In what ways did George Carlin pick up the torch after Lenny Bruce died, and how long after Lenny Bruce died did George start taking on controversial subject matters?**

Background for Facilitator: The post-1972 George Carlin essentially picked up the torch from Lenny, who died in 1966. He fearlessly examined the foibles of big institutions and the strictures of society, just as Lenny had done.

5. **What societal issues did George Carlin address that Lenny Bruce did not?**

Background for Facilitator: Besides going after the same dominating entities that Lenny went after, George added a couple of his own as the times changed. George went after the Right To Lifers for their hypocrisy, and specifically called out the ruling elite, saying that they cared absolutely zero for anyone not within their circle of power.