

James Baldwin on Film, on the Page, and in the Classroom

This workshop on James Baldwin is a collaboration of the Western Massachusetts Writing Project, the UMass History Department, and the James Baldwin Project. This first session focuses on **why** to teach Baldwin; the second will focus on **how**. Welcome to the series!

Agenda for November 2

5:00 Dinner and Conversation

Welcome by Jessica Johnson, Outreach Director, Department of History

Sticky note writing prompt: What brings you here tonight? Why are you interested in Baldwin? Please share responses at your table then post them on the chart paper.

5:30 Introduction and Film

Background and overview by Bruce Penniman, WMWP Site Director

Screening of *The Price of the Ticket*, courtesy of the James Baldwin Project

7:15 Discussion and Sharing

Facilitation by Momodou Sarr, WMWP Co-Director of Language, Culture, and Diversity

Prompts for table discussions:

- What scene or saying in the film is most memorable to you? Why?
- Why did Baldwin leave America? Why did he return?
- What themes connect Baldwin's diverse literary works?
- How is Baldwin's work relevant to current social issues?

Please write key ideas from the table discussion on chart paper.

Report-out to whole group and comparison of responses

7:45 Conclusion and Next Steps

Sticky note writing prompt: Why is it important to teach James Baldwin today?

Preview of November 30 session: Reading and discussion of "My Dungeon Shook: Letter to my Nephew on the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Emancipation"

Curriculum materials provided by the James Baldwin Project (www.jamesbaldwinproject.org/)