

Group Discussion Guide and Questions

For Facilitators:

The following questions are suggestions to help you guide a discussion after participants have viewed Thin Line. Feel free to add your own questions or choose those most relevant to the group you're working with.

Ensure the group knows these questions are meant to generate open discussion and self-exploration. Their responses will not be used for assessment or shared with others. Encourage them to be candid.

Character Response

1. What factors in the story caused you to feel sympathy?
2. What factors in the story did you feel judgement? Toward the woman? Toward the care providers?
3. What parts of the story had the greatest effect on you?

Care Provider Response

4. How did care provider #1's behavior make you feel? #2's? #3's?
5. Have you encountered the behaviors similar to those demonstrated by the care providers in your own practice?

Personal Reflection

6. How did the story make you think differently about your patients' experience?
7. How did the story make you think differently about how you approach your patients?
8. How do your thoughts, personal experiences, or biases affect your words and behaviors when interacting with patients?
9. What are some ways you can address your thoughts so that your words and behaviors make women feel more supported?
10. What did the story inspire you to change in your future education or professional practice?

Professionalism

Doctor #1

1. Discuss the reality of this experience, especially in rural or conservative areas.
2. Discuss how this experience may set a woman back in her timeline of obtaining an abortion.

3. What educational and training standards, state laws, and practice realities are at work to enable this doctor's refusal to provide an abortion or refer his patient for an abortion?
 - Medical education and residencies lack training in abortion care.
 - General lack of exposure to abortion procedures and care.
4. How would you respond to a woman who sees you after this experience?

Nurse #2

1. What factors may have gone into this nurses language and behavior choices? Make a list of all the possibilities.
Examples:
 - She is having a bad day.
 - She's been trying to get pregnant without success.
 - She's anti-choice.
2. Discuss how care providers in various roles throughout the hospital (nurses, MAs, ultrasound techs, ED staff) and in private practices may not have had the opportunity to explore their personal biases and professional responsibility and how this affects the care they provide.
3. How can you encourage a professional culture or classroom environment where your colleagues are supported in exploring their personal thoughts and feelings toward abortion.
4. How would you respond if you learned a colleague was exhibiting similar behavior toward patients?

Doctor #3

1. Are you satisfied with this doctor's response?
2. What could she have done to further normalize abortion and validate her patient's insecurities?
3. What positive effects may validation of the woman's history have on the future of the doctor-patient relationship and the woman's care?