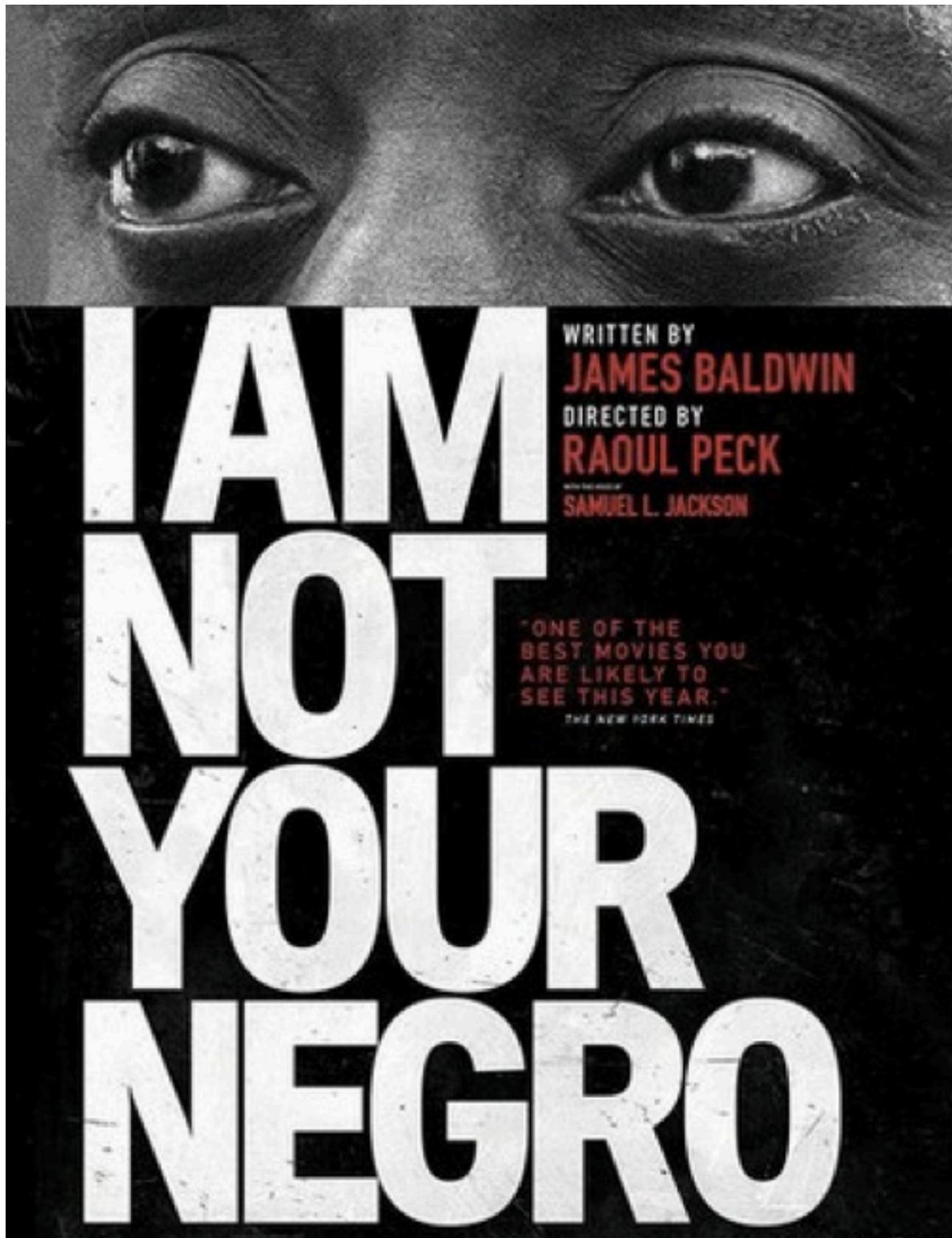


# Base Camp Series

## Just Society

High Resolves



## Overview

This discussion guide focuses on igniting a personal sense of responsibility to make the world a fairer and more just place for all. It is part of High Resolves Base Camp Series (BCS), a complimentary peak experience offering, which schools can run themselves without professional facilitation. BCS harnesses the power of film to trigger “aha” moments and push students to question their pre-existing beliefs about the world.

## Quick Start Guide

To prepare for the viewing and discussion of the film, please review the following:

1. ***I Am Not Your Negro***: the film that forms the foundation of the peak experience.
2. **Film summary**: overview of the film and key themes.
3. **Discussion guide**: recommended step-by-step guide to facilitate discussion.
4. **PowerPoint slideshow**: resource to facilitate discussion.

### Film Length

93 mins

### Rating

**M** – Mature themes, violence and coarse language

## Learning Outcomes

Affective	Behavioural	Cognitive
Empathise with those experiencing injustice and feel confident in resisting divisive or hateful messages with stronger, positive, collective responses	Make personal choices in daily life to constructively make the world a more just place	Understand how storytelling and media can be used to awaken and mobilise public opinion towards positive social change

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# Film Summary

*I Am Not Your Negro* is a 2016 documentary film directed by Raoul Peck and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. It is based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*, which was intended to be a personal account of the rise and fall of fellow civil rights leaders and friends Martin Luther King Jr., Medgar Evers, and Malcolm X. The documentary explores the civil rights movement and America's failure to completely embrace it, drawing startlingly relevant parallels with race in America today. *I Am Not Your Negro* received an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature and won the BAFTA Award for Best Documentary.

The film traverses several themes, which you can choose to explore with students:

## We have not yet achieved social justice

*I Am Not Your Negro* is a powerful showcase of America's failure to rectify its history of racial inequality and the perpetuation of structural and systemic injustice to this day. The film juxtaposes the disturbing violence committed against black people in the civil rights era with the unrest and violence we still see today.

## Being black in America

Bringing together Baldwin's powerful prose with graphic images from then and now, *I Am Not your Negro* is a vivid portrayal of being black in America.

## Racial representation in the media

In addition to being an influential voice on race relations in America, James Baldwin was an avid student of media and wrote prolifically on racial representation in film. *I Am Not Your Negro* weaves in old film clips and commercials to show how racial inequality was ingrained in media.

## One vision, different actions

Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and James Baldwin all shared a vision of racial equality. They each played different roles in service of that vision. James Baldwin was not only a writer, he was also an activist who utilised the power of his words to move people to action.

## Life's calling

*I Am Not Your Negro* follows Baldwin's journey to realise his life's calling: to bear witness to the truth. Baldwin speaks of the pull of his calling as he writes, "once you realise that you can do something, it would be difficult to live with yourself if you didn't do it."