



FILM: **HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE**

FDG RATING: 3.3 😊😊😊😊😊

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Daniel Goldhaber: *director*
Lukas Gage: *actor, Logan*
Ariela Barer: *actress, Xochitl*

DATE: October 22, 2023

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE**

The 2022 film, *How to Blow up a Pipeline*, proposes violent action in response to the climate crisis which was a turn-off for some discussion participants who decided not to watch it. Others liked the story about a group of young diverse individuals from all over the USA who meet in west Texas to sabotage an oil pipeline. Their goal is to tank stock prices and create a sharp shock to carbon-based fuel consumption in the US. Through character-titled flashbacks, we learn their varied motivations such as Native American, Michael, from North Dakota, who violently opposes the occupation of his land by miners and oil workers. Dwayne is young family man, ex-serviceman, whose land is being bought from under him to build the pipeline. Xochitl and Theo grew up in a refinery town, and now Theo is dying from a rare leukemia caused by refinery pollution. We agreed this was a very effective technique especially since the back stories are scattered throughout the film holding the viewers interest.

One discussion participant described the story as small but gripping and liked the reveal of each individual's reason for coming together noting that the work and planning it took to make the bombs was fascinating. On the flip side, another discussion participant who supports environmental activism, didn't like the film and observed several illogical flaws. Another activism sympathizer didn't like the preachy aspect. But vigilante justice aimed at the petroleum industry in an act of sabotage is understandable. Unfortunately, driving oil prices higher especially hurts the poor.

Interesting story, good character development, disturbing, and engaging, *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* collected a simmering 3.3 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!
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