

Reading Between The Lives

A Film Review by Mila Parks

Reading Between the Lives attempts to inform viewers about the academic and personal struggles of students at Chabot Community College. According to the dvd packaging, the film was created as part of a Carnegie Foundation Grant. Sadly, the finished film product requires me to question the Carnegie Foundation's funding choice.

First, there are no respectable characters in this film. Based on the film, Chabot College students are victims. Chabot teachers are unskilled. Next, the film provides problematic messages for community college students. The books are expensive, and other students are not reading; viewers do not need to read either. Also, no strong suggestions for addressing student challenges are provided. I was depressed when I finished watching the film. Finally, the director's visual choices are often bizarrely distracting. I do not understand the purpose of the fire scene, and given the extended length of the scene, I had more than enough time to try and figure that out.

Community college students and teachers should not invest time in viewing *Reading Between the Lives*. The Carnegie Foundation should not have invested money either.

Confirming & Challenging Exercise: REVIEW OF DVD

<u>TEXT</u>	<u>CHALLENGE AND/OR CONFIRM</u>