OPENING & CLOSING REMARKS

GIRL RISING

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Your screening is the spark igniting a campaign for girls’ education in your community. Giving opening remarks before the screening is an opportunity to remind everyone why they’re here: to consider the power of girls’ education to change the world and think critically about how they can take action.
“Welcome to my screening of Girl Rising. I wanted to host this screening of Girl Rising because [insert your own motivation]. What you are about to see is the culmination of 6 years of work by a team of former journalists from ABC News. We set out to investigate how to end global poverty – no small question(!) – and what we discovered was a simple elegant truth: that educating girls is the highest-return investment you can make in breaking cycles of poverty. The desire to spread that truth led them to make this film.

What you are about to see is neither documentary nor fiction. Rather, it is an effort to take the stories of real girls far away from here – and the barriers they face to achieving their dreams – and present them in a way that is both moving and personal.

The stories are meant to bridge the gap between us and them, and the film seeks to demonstrate another fundamental truth: that everywhere in the world, what young girls want is the same as what most of us want, a chance to be young and a chance to learn.

And yet, often, because they are born female, girls don’t get that chance. Global change begins with individual action. By buying a ticket to this screening, you have made an investment in a girl, and for that, I thank you.

In addition, you have joined a movement that we hope will grow and spread like wildfire, from here in [insert town/city], to the villages of Ethiopia, the streets of Kabul, and the squares of Cairo. We live in an interconnected world, where revolutions can jump across borders and time-zones. Thank you for being part of THIS revolution for girls. I hope you enjoy Girl Rising.

Also, I’ll be handing out some postcards with further details on how to take action. Please take one.”

Opening Remarks Sample

To get you started, here is a draft of what Holly Gordon, co-founder of Girl Rising, shared at a screening her husband hosted in her community, in the suburbs of New York City.
“As you just learned at the end of the film, Girl Rising was made possible by amazing organizations that serve girls around the world everyday. One of the ways we will measure the impact of Girl Rising is by how much funding we can raise in each screening to send to those programs. From 2013-2016, we’re proud to say that we directed over $2 million in funds to these organizations working to achieve equity and opportunity for girls.

Today, I’m asking for support for Girl Rising’s programs around the world. So please go to girlrising.com, and consider making a donation.

The original Girl Rising film, that you just watched, remains invaluable in our efforts. We’ve combined it with new content and curricula tools for India, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as in classrooms across the world. The money you give goes directly to support this work - helping Girl Rising develop new programs, expand to more regions and grow our reach to more classrooms, communities and countries.

You can find out more detailed information about the programs your contribution will support on our website.

The other way to move the needle on girls’ education is to spread the message about Girl Rising to others. I encourage you to share your experience today on social media, at your office or sports games. Tell other people to see Girl Rising, and let them know that they can help put girls’ education on the top of the global agenda.

Finally, consider getting involved directly. Lead community outreach efforts for Girl Rising or other girl-centered causes in your community run learning events using our teaching tools, or fundraise. We rely on the philanthropy and volunteerism of folks like you to continue to deliver their life-changing services around the world.

Thanks again for coming. And remember, we are all in this together. A better world for girls means a better world for all of us.”
Speaking About Your Organization

If you are hosting a screening to spread the word about your own work or organization, please feel free to tell your audience why they should get involved in your closing remarks. We believe that there are many ways to improve the lives of girls, and we hope that Girl Rising can help you meet your goals!

Here is a basic outline of what that might look like:

- The organization that I support is [insert organization name].
- We are working to improve [the lives of girls] in [these] ways.
- I would like you to consider making a contribution by [insert method of payment].
- I would also invite you to learn more by [taking one of these flyers/visiting this website/talking to me after the screening in the lobby].