

How to Start a Book Club

Your Coming Clean book club meeting could be the start of an ongoing activist book club, or simply just a one-time event. Either way, here are some tips to pulling together a group of folks to discuss the book and get on a conference call with author, Michael Brune.

1. Contact friends or other members of your community that might be interested in reading and discussing Coming Clean. Anywhere from 2 people on up is great.
2. Purchase copies of the book.
3. Settle on a date to meet and let your group know. This date should:
 - a. Give folks enough time to read the book (4 weeks should be enough)
 - b. Ideally be on one of the days that the author is answering questions about the book via conference call.
4. Decide what type of gathering you will have... will it be over dinner? Dessert? Outdoors? At your home? At the public library or at a café? One fun way to do it is to have each person bring an appetizer, dessert or drink to someone's home.
5. Send out details about the event. This should include when people can arrive, when the discussion is, and when you will be calling in to the conference call (you can do your discussion before or after the call).
6. Read the book!
7. If you are going to lead the discussion, go over the discussion questions in advance. You can also see the tips below on leading a book club discussion.
8. Make sure you have a phone with a speaker on it so that when you call in to the (free) conference line, everyone can hear.
9. On the night of the event, make sure your space is comfortable and welcoming and that your speaker phone works.
10. At the end of your meeting, discuss whether people would like to continue the club. There are many suggestions for other books on energy, climate and human rights issues in the back of Coming Clean.

And here are some other great online resources to help you along:

How to Start a Book Club

http://bestsellers.about.com/od/bookclubresources/ht/start_book_club.htm

How to Lead a Book Club Discussion:

http://bestsellers.about.com/od/bookclubresources/ht/how_lead_talk.htm