

# Just Below the Surface: Perspectives on the Gulf Coast Oil Spill

*"We need to look at each other. We all use oil.  
We all have some responsibility.  
That's a good thing because if we have  
some responsibility, we all have some power."*

— John Francis, author

**JUST BELOW THE SURFACE IS A ONE-SESSION  
DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE WORKPLACE,  
COMMUNITY CENTER, HOME OR UNIVERSITY**

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS DISCUSSION COURSE WILL:**

- Explore the connections between the oil spill, energy policy and our lifestyles.
- Consider a variety of perspectives on the "lessons" of the Deepwater Horizon blowout.
- Consider meaningful ways in which to respond to the oil spill.
- Identify steps to reduce fossil fuel use in our own lives.



## **INSPIRING PEOPLE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARTH**

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# JUST BELOW THE SURFACE: PERSPECTIVES ON THE GULF COAST OIL SPILL DISCUSSION COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SESSION THEME

- This one session discussion guide addresses the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history, and explores opportunities for action. The materials and discussion questions facilitate a closer look at the connections between the oil spill, energy policies and our lifestyles. This course offers an opportunity to reflect further on this event and the lessons it holds for us moving forward-individually and collectively.

## READINGS

- Action Plan
- "Blowout" by John Daniels
- "Cheap Oil is Costing Us the Earth" by Dr. Sylvia Earle
- "From Reaction to Intentionality" by Anna Berardi
- "Empowerment Through Art: NOLA Rising" by Jennifer Anderson
- "Beyond Oil: Nature and Adaptation" by David Gessner
- "Missing the Real Drama of the Deepwater Horizon Blowout" by Bill McKibben
- "Building a 21st Century Sustainable Economy" by Sylvia Hayes

