German Spotlight: *Die Welle/The Wave*

1. The instructor Rainer Wenger is an anarchist but must teach a class on autocracy despite his beliefs. His students do not believe that a dictatorship could exist in modern Germany. Wenger is determined to show his students that the threat of fascism is still alive, showing them how easily people can be manipulated in to supporting a dictator. What is unexpected is how popular fascism is with the students. Do you think that at some point Wenger is no longer teaching them about the dangers of fascism and has become obsessed with a sense of power? Why doesn’t Wenger try to stop the Wave earlier?

2. Viewers pick up on warning signs that Tim is disturbed. What are the warning signs? Does any one in the film recognize them? In real life, what would be the best way to deal with a fellow student showing signs of instability and aggression?

3. Karo seems to be the strongest voice of opposition to the Wave. How does she try to fight what the Wave is doing? Research resistance tactics to fascism and compare these tactics to Karo’s approach. What else could have Karo done?