

# Film/Media

Cycle 3: Systems

Study Guide #4

March 1-11

Documentary films come in many different shapes, sizes, and forms. But they all have one thing in common: displaying and commenting on real life. Every documentary film-maker has a reason for making a documentary about a specific topic. Do you want to bring to light something that is commonly ignored by society? Do you want to dispel false beliefs about something? Do you want to expose an injustice? Do you want to convince people to take action? Do you want people to think a new way about something or maybe appreciate it more than they currently do? Every time you make a documentary, the first step to making it successful is clearly understanding WHY you are making it and what you hope to ACHIEVE with it.

**Essential Questions:** What images/information/video clips will best achieve the purpose of my documentary? What music can I use to enhance the mood of my film? How can I edit my film to enhance the meaning, without pulling focus?

## Documentary Checklist:

- Is my topic clearly identifiable?
- Is my film at least 5 minutes long, but no longer than 13 minutes?
- Do I have an original, creative title?
- Did I cite all my sources and contributors in the credits?
- Did I list myself as the director in the credits?
- Did I use a variety (20+) of pictures, factoids, and/or video clips?
- Do I have 1-3 interviews included in my film?
- Does my film have an interesting opening that grips my audience from the start?
- Does my film have a conclusive ending that wraps it all up?
- Did I save my finished film on a flash drive?

**Due March 9th!**

Viewed in Yurt on March 11th.

