

Name: _____

Period: _____

Documentary Film Analysis

Title: _____ **Year Released:** _____

Director: _____ **Topic :** _____

Part A: Visual and Audio Elements of the Documentary

As you watch the film, take notes about what is presented and how it is presented. Always consider the message you think the filmmaker is trying to present, their position on the subject of the film. Include specific examples from throughout the film that appeal to you—those strong images and ideas, whether you agree with what is presented or not.

What do you see?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. List 3-5 images that you see and appear to be significant as you view the film. These images may include text, subtitles, or statistics. As you list each image, include a description of it— i.e., colors, placement of objects, text used (if any), etc.
<i>*Draw a star next to the ideas/images you find most persuasive or convincing.</i></p> | <p>2. What tone or feeling does the filmmaker create with these images? Explain.
3. What point might they be trying to make? Explain.</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

What do you hear?

4. Provide at least one example of each of the following types of audio tracks used in a documentary. Describe the sound of each example to the best of your ability, as well as the general or usual context in which it is used.

**Star the sounds you find most persuasive or add the most to the point you feel the filmmaker is trying to make.*

a. Narration or voice over track:

b. Background music track:

c. Other sounds:

5. What tone or feeling does the filmmaker create with these sounds? Explain.

What else do you notice?

6. Note how the camera angles, lighting, or editing contribute to create an atmosphere in the documentary. List at least 2 things worthy of mentioning that the filmmaker does to enhance the message.

7. What tone or feeling does the filmmaker create with these effects? Explain.

8. What is the overall mood or tone of the film? Does it change through the course of the film? How?

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Part B: The Rhetorical Strategies

Identify examples of the rhetorical strategies as presented in the documentary film. You may refer to your notes or find additional examples from the film. It may be a good idea to view the film a second time, but that is not required. For each example you identify, explain the effect on the viewer/audience.

9. List 3 examples where the filmmaker appears to establish **ETHOS** through visual elements, audio, and/or written text. Briefly describe each example.

10. How do these examples affect the audience or message? Explain.

11. List 3 examples where the filmmaker appears to appeal to **LOGOS** through expert testimony, quantitative data, inductive and deductive reasoning.

12. How do these examples affect the audience or message? Explain.

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13. List examples where the filmmaker appears to appeal to **PATHOS** through visual elements, audio, personal anecdote, humor, etc.

14. How do these examples affect the audience or message? Explain.

Part C: Final Evaluation of the Documentary

15. What is the central message of this film?

16. What do you find to be the film's strengths? Briefly explain.

17. What do you find to be the film's weaknesses? Briefly explain.

18. How do you think the filmmakers want the audience to respond? What *action* or *significant understanding* do the filmmakers expect the audience to take or have by the end of the film? Explain.