

5.31.05 - Hilary & Sarah

Hilary: What is a documentary - The creative treatment of reality. This is a rather ambiguous definition, however, so we will strive to better define it.

- The first doc. was “Nan. of the North” which was footage taken and narration imposed over it.
- Questions asked on doc.
 - should narration guide the viewer
 - should the maker appear
 - what story
 - should reality be treated as a given or posed as a question
 - are you representing all of a certain topic
- form is content - you will be telling your story as much with images as you are with narration etc
- formal questions:
 - how does the viewer become involved? (suture)
 - how does the film express the maker in terms of form?

We will now look at a short clip of *Outfoxed* : (four or five minutes)

- expert interviews backed up by file-type footage
- media activists & former fox employee's
- “tension building” “concerning” music
- visual facts (numbers)
 - the use of “my media reaches” ties us closer to Mer.
 - in a way, it is a filler (B roll) and not necc. in our projects
 - by seeing this info printed, it almost legitimizes the information & validates it's authenticity.

Sarah: Choosing a Topic (for complete notes, see handout)

“you are to produce a short political or social documentary”

- Make sure that you care about the idea, because if you don't care, then that will translate and be visible in the final product.
- **“what can you bring to the table that is new?”** when thinking on topics
- pick a topic that relates to all people, a personal story about a society issue
- for this class, we must think of local resources due to time and money constraints.
- do i have something that will hold peoples interest?
 - strong doc. have strong narrative

We should be thinking about:

What is the film about?

What is it saying to whom?

What does it hope to achieve?

Who is going to be watching this film and what are their biases?