**C229 Single Camera Production – Week 13**

**Agenda/Announcements:**

* There is no lecture this week due to the eclipse – but labs meet as normal- or as directed by your lab instructor. While we aren’t meeting for lecture in person, please read through the notes below on documentary production, read the embedded article and watch examples of the various documentaries.
* When you are finished, answer the embedded question by the end of the week (by 5 pm Friday, April 12).
* There is no lecture or readings next week (Week 14) so you can focus and work on your Final Projects.

**Readings/Watchlist:**

* [6 Types of Documentary Films](https://www.premiumbeat.com/blog/6-types-of-documentary-film/) (According to Bill Nichols by Premium Beat)
* **From last week:**
  + [What is Film Coverage: Step by Step Guide](https://filmlifestyle.com/what-is-film-coverage/)
  + [How to Shoot a Scene Using Basic Coverage](https://youtu.be/oNePOOLv-ew) (Excellent examples of coverage and blocking)
  + [Joel & Ethan Coen – Shot | Reverse Shot](https://youtu.be/5UE3jz_O_EM)
  + [Film Coverage – A Step by Step Guide](https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/film-coverage/) (Studio Binder – Look at the [storyboards](https://app.studiobinder.com/company/580e85847e7982164664e844/collab/5ec99e4f7923417a72535bb9/projects/5e5ef47edbbaae3ec5dc890d/shots/?filter=%257B%2522l%2522%253A%2522627d1ab1a9532cb3c5a8a6a0%2522%257D&utm_source=blog&utm_medium=sb-app-link&utm_campaign=storyboard&utm_content=austin-powers-storyboards&utm_term=film-coverage-shot-list))

**Documentary Film Production**

According to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary_film), “A **documentary film** or **documentary** is a non-fictional motion-picture intended to "document reality, primarily for the purposes of instruction, education or maintaining a historical record.”

Don’t do it for the money! Most documentary productions are labors of love. Some take hundreds of hours (years) to produce and more. Unlike narrative filmmaking, which is made up mainly of original (newly shot) content, documentaries often require incorporation of existing intellectual property content (films, photos, newsreels, sounds, documents, etc.) which requires a lot of time, research, effort, and usually also obtaining license releases. Like independent filmmaking, documentary production can be subsidized with commercial work.

Author, scholar, film critic and theoretician, [Bill Nichols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Nichols_(film_critic)) has postulated that there are 6 basic types of documentaries.

**Read this article on Premium Beat:** [**6 Types of Documentary Films**](https://www.premiumbeat.com/blog/6-types-of-documentary-film/) and look at the embedded examples.

Overview: According to Bill Nichols, there are 6 Types of Documentaries:

* Poetic (loose structure, more about feelings)
* Expository (Essay structure, March of the Penguins, Ken Burns, etc.)
* Observational (Minimal commentary, cinema verité, relies mainly on footage of events)
* Participatory (Include the filmmaker within the documentary, affecting outcome and story. Roger and Me, Free Solo, etc.)
* Reflexive (The focus is mainly on the filmmaker and making the film. [Man with a Movie Camera](https://youtu.be/cGYZ5847FiI?si=tT9oZLQXx3e8PYFw), etc.)
* Performative (Hybrid of styles, often a personal perspective is intermingled with fact and opinion. Fahrenheit 911, Supersize Me, Bowling for Columbine)

**Week 13 lecture questions: (2 responses required)**

1. What kind of documentary type is a typical Ken Burns series?
2. What kind of documentary type is Michael Moore’s, *Roger and Me*?