

Worksheet for the Aristotelian Modes of Persuasion in a Documentary Film: Appeals to *Logos*, *Pathos*, and *Ethos*

Read the questions before you watch the movie. After watching the film, answer each question in paragraph form. Your responses should be complete and comprehensive. Incorporate a reference to the question in each response. Be sure to use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

1. Briefly describe what the film is about and the argument that it makes.
2. List six facts described in the movie that impressed you and explain how each fact relates to the film's argument (*logos*).
3. What were the strongest logical arguments given in support of the filmmakers' position (*logos*)?
4. Did any of the reasoning given in support of the positions advocated in the film seem to be weak or misleading? If so, describe the concept put forward in the movie and why you thought the reasoning was flawed (*logos*).
5. Look for cinematic techniques such as camera angle, color, scene juxtaposition, and music. Select three scenes and describe how cinematic techniques support the positions advocated by the filmmakers.
6. List three scenes in the movie designed to appeal to a viewer's emotions (*pathos*) and describe the ways in which they present their emotional appeal.
7. How did the filmmakers use the element of *ethos*, or appeal to authority? Was it effective? Explain your reasoning.
8. Describe a scene in the movie that serves as the cinematic equivalent of a concession (bringing up the opposing argument in order to refute it). For extra credit, describe a second example of a scene that serves as a concession.
9. How well did the filmmakers use the Aristotelian rhetorical appeals to: *logos*, *pathos*, and *ethos*? Did any one predominate over the others? Justify your response.
10. Was there a call to action in this movie? How do you think you will respond to that call? Describe your reasons.

