
DOCUMENTARY FILMS & SOCIAL ISSUES

Dear students and parents,

Welcome to Documentary Films and Social Issues! This is an awesome class where we explore contemporary issues in our local and global communities. I will use films, newspapers, written commentary, guest speakers and any other medium I can to get you talking, debating, forming opinions and speaking out. As fun as it will be, there may be some discussions or topics that are hard to participate in. Sometimes the majority opinion in the class differs from yours or the topic that we are discussing is a hard one to talk about. As the facilitator I will do my best to make sure that both sides of controversial issues are presented. I will also work to make sure that everybody in class has a voice. Assessment will be on attendance/participation, writing, taking an active part in debates and discussions etc. We will be doing speeches and presentations in this class and participation in those is a big part of the assessment.

While there is a set schedule of assignments and activities planned, this class is malleable. When something big happens in the world or when there is a topic that the class really wants to explore, we very well may alter the schedule. It is important to keep up with assignments because work can build up quickly. Films that we watch in class will need to be viewed independently if missed. Links will be provided, but you may need access to a computer and sometimes Netflix or other online sources. All assignments will be listed in Pinnacle under the 'narrative' section. If you miss an assignment or are working on an assignment at home you can check the requirements through Pinnacle. If you do not know how to access the narrative section of Pinnacle, please see Miz B right away.

Finally, we need to have a quick word about the films and some of the class content. Documentaries are rarely rated in the same way that typical films are, and while most of them would likely receive a rating of PG if they were to receive a rating, some of the things we watch in this class would be more likely to receive a rating of PG-13 or R. The reason for this rating in most cases would be due to language, partial nudity or controversial content. There is a permission slip at the bottom of this letter that will need to be signed acknowledging student permission to view films with the equivalent to PG-13 or R ratings.

Respectfully,

(*Student's name*) _____ has permission to view R rated films

(*Parent Signature*) _____