

Student Essay on Documentaries and How They Are Crafted

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Essay

It is a common belief and expectation that documentaries are factual representations of reality-based issues, whereas in fact documentaries can be viewed as constructions that offer several versions of that reality. Documentary filmmakers, when creating a documentary, have the objective in-mind to inform the audience through increasing their awareness on current and relevant issues, generally ones that people feel strongly about. The approach adopted through which to achieve this is by method of persuasion through the use of clever film techniques. This is done in order to achieve their goal of suggesting to the audience the material and facts as gathered through the research in developing their version of reality. Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock's documentary 'Super Size Me' achieves this through the creative use of film technique. These techniques introduce, develop and enlighten the audience with regards to the current obesity epidemic presently occurring in America. Spurlock not only informs the audience of this issue, he also presents the information in an entertaining and capturing way. 'Super Size Me' uses McDonalds as an example to illustrate the effects the "fast-food industry" has on societies health and well-being. McDonalds is used due to the fact that McDonalds is a popular restaurant and one that is heavily marketed, as more people can relate to it through an actual experience. Though the effects of fast food in general are depicted solely through the industries largest corporation, McDonalds, it is understood by audience that it applies to others.