

Writing a Documentary Review

Paragraph 1

1. Begin with an attention grabber
2. Give details of the documentary
 - Title, director, year of release, etc.
3. Explain who you think the intended audience is for this documentary
4. Explain the purpose of the documentary
 - What is the main message the director wants to get across to the audience?

Paragraph 2

State your prior knowledge of the subject

- Did you know anything about the subject before you watched the documentary?
- What did you expect to see?
- What questions did you have about the subject?

Paragraph 3

Summarize the documentary

- Who or what is the subject of the documentary?
- What is the documentary about?
- What are the main events (if any)?
- Where was it filmed?

Paragraph 4

Talk about the sound effects, camera work, interviews and special effects

- How did sound effects, camera work, interviews and special effects influence your understanding of the story?
- Were these aspects done well or done poorly? Explain.

Paragraph 5

Give personal comments and recommendation

- Which part of the documentary do you like most?
- What have you learned from it?
- Was there anything that surprised you?
- What are the drawbacks of the documentary?
- Would you recommend this documentary to your friends?

*Make sure that as you follow this format you focus on the flow and rhythm of your essay. Merely restating and answering the questions will result in a choppy, bland finished product. Look for natural transitions and combinations when fulfilling the requirements for the paper.