

Documentary Film Assignment

ENVS 310 – Fall 2019

The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to apply your environmental knowledge and critical thinking skills to a fun exercise – watching an environmental documentary.

So, you will watch a documentary film from the list (or another film with instructor approval) and write a 4-5 page response paper. You may need to watch the film more than once to give a full response to the science and issues presented by the filmmakers.

Your paper should include a summary of the film that clearly identifies the subject and gives the names of the filmmaker/s and their backgrounds – what other films have they made, where are they from (e.g., nationality), and have they won any awards for their film, etc. (20 points)

Next give a synopsis of the film – explain how it presented information; was there a narrator who told us a story, were there experts interviewed as “talking heads,” or did the filmmaker walk us through the subject of the film themselves? Describe the subject matter in such a way that a reader who has not seen the film would be able to understand the concepts and strengths and weaknesses of the film. What I’m really looking for here, I guess, is for you to convince me that I should watch this movie. (40 points)

Finally, share your personal reaction to the film. Did you agree with the premise? Did you disagree? Did it make you hopeful, or depressed, or angry? Did you find the arguments convincing or not? Have you seen, read, or heard opposing views that you can cite in response to this film? (40 points)

The paper will be 4-5 pages, double-spaced, 11-12 point font, with 1” margins all the way around, printed on BOTH sides of the paper. Include a title (though not a title page) and appropriate headings within the paper. If you cite any sources use the APA style as your template: (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>).

The paper is due at the scheduled class final exam time on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:20 pm. You are welcome to submit it prior to this time, however. On Tuesday, November 26th, everyone will have the chance to share details about their film selection with the class for a few extra points.