

FILM 161 Fall 09  
DOCUMENTARY HISTORY AND THEORY

Paper #1

Due Thursday October 15, 2009

4-5 pages

Must be typed, double-spaced, 1" or less margins

Must be proofread for grammatical, typographic and spelling errors.

Bill Nichols defines documentary, however loosely, as a multifaceted mode of filmmaking. Using your own words, summarize his definition as he lays it out in chapters 1 through 4 of his book Introduction to Documentary. Then, using some contemporary non-fiction film as a 'case study' (not one that he describes) do an analysis of it and argue for its inclusion as a non fiction text. Remember that Nichols defines nonfiction at the level of both production and reception and so you may need to do some 'research' in to the production and distribution of your particular chosen text: the conditions of its production, where it is shown, how it is marketed, what traditions it cites or works within, how it enunciates, etc.