Title:

Documentarian/Interviewer:

Year the film premiered:

1. What is the “exigence” surrounding the documentary: (what is the issue, problem, motivation that compels the documentarian to communicate their message in the film? What is important historically/culturally for the audience to understand?
2. What is the main claim made in the documentary? What does the auteur want the audience to think/feel/do?
3. What do you notice about the stylistic choices the auteur makes as they convey their purpose? Some broad stylistic categories are listed below to help organize your thoughts.
4. Who is the primary audience for this film?
5. Narrative structure: How is the film narrated? Voice Over (V.O.)? “Fly-on-the-wall”? Is the film crew actively involved in the action and events of the film? How does this choice affect the audience or purpose?
6. Is the camera style controlled or natural? Explain evidence for this position. How does this affect the audience or purpose?
7. Any specific choices with music? Interviews? Lighting? How does the affect the audience or the purpose?
8. Describe the editing/manipulation of pictures. How does this effect the pace? Does it jump around quickly? Are there slow or fast fades to the next picture or scene? How do these choices effect the mood of the film, therefore, affecting the audience?
9. What choices in the film establish a sense of credibility? Why do they choose to include these specific choices? How do they affect the audience?
10. What choices in the film have a strong appeal to emotion? Why do they choose to include these specific choices? How do they affect the audience?
11. When does the film appeal to the audience’s sense of logic? Why do they choose to include these specific choices? How do they affect the audience?