

Evaluating Movies and Documentaries

Movie vs Documentary

- Movie is usually fiction based on some fact
 - Meant to make money
- Documentary is the equivalent of non-fiction
 - Meant to educate
- Both can be propaganda

Evaluating the Technical Quality Aspects

- Casting
- Acting
- Script
- Wardrobe and Makeup
- Music and Effects
- Staging and Props
- Lighting
- Titles and Credits
- Camera Operations
- Sound
- Editing

Evaluating the Historical Merits

- ❑ How deep is the content coverage
- ❑ How good is it at representing the period
- ❑ How good is at building a historical construct of the subject
- ❑ How good is at building a social construct of the subject
- ❑ How good is it at building an empathy
- ❑ How good is it at evoking a moral response

Evaluating the Military History

- Is high-tech equipment the star of the show? How do the characters who operate it relate to it?
- How is the enemy represented? Do filmmakers make use of stereotypes and demonization?
- Does the film present violence and aggression as the only way to solve problems or are other solutions portrayed?
- What are the main characters fighting for? Does the film affirm the dominant system and status quo or does it question it? Does it have a point of view on current social issues?
- What does the film say about what it means to be a male person? a female person? Are women foils for the male characters or real people?
- Is there a system of beliefs (myths) that characterize a particular class or group, such as men?

Final Evaluation

- ❑ Did the movie cause you to research more?
- ❑ How well does the movie stand up against other sources of information about the subject
- ❑ Did the movie give you an understanding that no other source did?