

Unlike fiction films, documentaries want to tell true stories about real life. Documentary films attempt to record and narrate such things as historical events, group and individual experiences, the natural world, or social movements. The subject matter of documentaries can vary widely. There are, however, a limited number of conventional documentary "styles." We'll study such conventions in this course, and we'll think carefully about how an analysis of cinematic form and style can affect our understanding of the truth-value, emotional impact, and social force of documentaries.

