**Documentary Rhetorical Analysis Essay**

**Directions:** Since we are all at home and no doubt binging various different shows, it is a great time to analyze some of the things that are presented to us through film. Film is one of the most common forms of communication and can be used to shed light on a subject that might otherwise be ignored (anyone else catch *Tiger King* while home?) For this assignment, you will choose a full-length documentary to analyze. You will watch the film, identify the stylistic choices of the documentarian, and write a rhetorical analysis of how the documentarian’s purpose is conveyed and enhanced through specific narrative style and filmmaking techniques.

**Prompt:** In a well-developed five-paragraph-minimum essay, analyze the rhetoric of your self-selected documentary film. How does the documentarian use specific filmmaking choices to convey his/her purpose?

Your essay must be in standard MLA format (12 point, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, headers, etc). You must also have a work cited page with your documentary (please visit Purdue Owl’s MLA Work Cited: Other Common Sources and find Film to get the format order). This should be in third person, academic language.

Your essay will be graded in parts:

Part 1: Outline – 25 points, due April 24

Part 2: Final Essay – 50 points, due April 27

Documentaries to consider:

Blackfish

Restrepo

Banksy’s Exit Through the Gift Shop

Dinosaur 13

Oklahoma City

Gasland

Grizzly Man

King Corn

Hot Coffee

Hoop Dreams

If a Tree Falls

Inside Job

The Fog of War

The Cove

Stupid in America

Page One

No End in Sight

Food, Inc.

Supersize Me

The Unforeseen

The Greatest Movie Ever Sold

The King of Kong

Waiting for Superman

Waste Land

Roger and Me

**If you have a documentary in mind, please email me to have it approved.**