Drawbacks of the Direct Cinema Style
1. Boredom of everyday life -- may lead to staging
2. Time constraints -- may limit subjects to events already dramatic
3. Illusion of reality vs. loading of topic through editing

Drawbacks of the Style
4. Difficulty of dealing with abstract & not very visual topic
5. Without narration can totally lose meaning and nuances
6. Don’t people react differently in front of camera anyway?
   To an extent a style that networks are afraid of ! (too unpredictable)

Cinema Verite - French Term
Looks, stylistically like Direct Cinema but:
Precipitates action (catalyst)
Provokes response
Self-reflexive (Dziga Vertov’s influence-Kino Pravda / Kino Eye)
Direct Cinema in its purest expression has virtually disappeared
The term itself has been replaced by “Cinema Verite”

BUT

2007 Student Academy Award Documentary Winner:

Cross Your Eyes, Keep Them Wide
Ben Wu - Stanford University

Verite Films

- Edgar Morin and Jean Rouch -- Chronicle of a Summer
- Marcel Ophuls -- The Sorrow and the Pity
- George Stoney in U.S. -- You are On Indian Land
Marcel Ophuls

The Sorrow and the Pity
(1969)

Barbara Kopple

- Won two Academy Awards
  - Harlan Country, USA (1976)
  - American Dream (1991)
- Kopple an active participant/provocateur in both

Michael Moore

- Sort of modified Verite style
  - Roger and Me (1989)
- Like Kopple, provokes the action---Moore is the action