Term Paper

Write a 4 to 5 page paper about a documentary that you select for viewing. It must be a documentary made in 2000 or after.

Read Nichol’s Chapter 8 - How We Can Write Effectively About Documentary for guidance.

The Voices of Documentary

Nichols calls the 6 modes of representation “something like a subgenre of documentary film.”
Voices

1. Poetic
2. Expository
3. Participatory
4. Observational
5. Reflexive
6. Performative

Poetic

Reassembles fragments of the world poetically
Think of films like *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*

Expository

Directly addresses issues in the historical world, typically with heavy reliance on voice-over narration.

1920s
Observational
Eschews commentary and reenactment: observes things as they happen
1960s

Participatory
Interview or interact with the subjects; use archival footage to retrieve history
1960s

Reflexive
Questions documentary form, possibly even attacking the other modes or voices of documentary form
1980s
Performative
Stresses the subjective aspects of a classically objective discourse

1980s

Or you can write a proposal for a documentary
Something that is CLEARLY a documentary rather than an educational film, informational film, news or fact film. At the least something you can defend as a documentary according to the way you define it.

Budget Information
I don’t want any information about the budget. We will assume your doc will be as long as you want it (or need it) to be and that adequate funding will be available.
You should persuade your reader that your documentary is so good, or so valuable, or so important that it must be made (or that they will give you the funding to make it).

Be Persuasive. Sell it!

The proposal should be from 4-5 pages long -- no longer, double-spaced.

Length

You need to discuss the things that sell your proposal and probably downplay things that don’t. That means highlighting what is important (about the subject) and anything special you are doing to treat that subject in a particular way.

There is no set formula
So you may or may not discuss:

- the format (structure)
- the theme (what’s it really about?)
- the pt. of view
- the style (verite, pro-con with host, etc)
- any special techniques employed
- the use of narration, music, etc.

**SUMMARY**

4 to 5 pages double-spaced in which you:

- Sell your idea...why is it important? Why should it be made?
- A clear sense of how YOU will treat this subject in doc. form. Techniques, approaches, etc.

**DUE**

- On April 25th