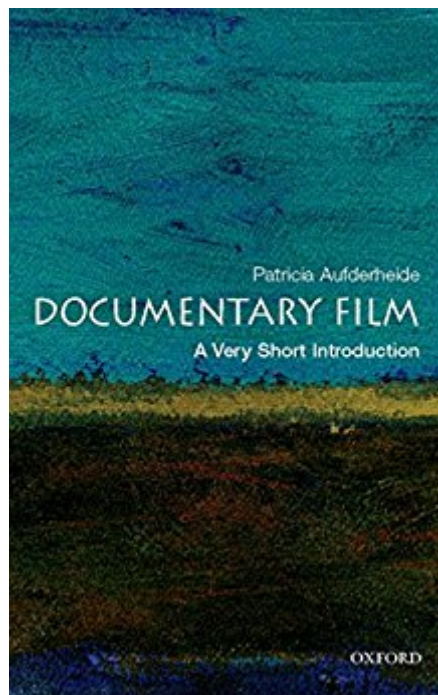




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# Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



## Synopsis

Documentary film can encompass anything from Robert Flaherty's pioneering ethnography *Nanook of the North* to Michael Moore's anti-Iraq War polemic *Fahrenheit 9/11*, from Dziga Vertov's artful Soviet propaganda piece *Man with a Movie Camera* to Luc Jacquet's heart-tugging wildlife epic *March of the Penguins*. In this concise, crisply written guide, Patricia Aufderheide takes readers along the diverse paths of documentary history and charts the lively, often fierce debates among filmmakers and scholars about the best ways to represent reality and to tell the truths worth telling. Beginning with an overview of the central issues of documentary filmmaking--its definitions and purposes, its forms and founders--Aufderheide focuses on several of its key subgenres, including public affairs films, government propaganda (particularly the works produced during World War II), historical documentaries, and nature films. Her thematic approach allows readers to enter the subject matter through the kinds of films that first attracted them to documentaries, and it permits her to make connections between eras, as well as revealing the ongoing nature of documentary's core controversies involving objectivity, advocacy, and bias. Interwoven throughout are discussions of the ethical and practical considerations that arise with every aspect of documentary production. A particularly useful feature of the book is an appended list of "100 great documentaries" that anyone with a serious interest in the genre should see. Drawing on the author's four decades of experience as a film scholar and critic, this book is the perfect introduction not just for teachers and students but also for all thoughtful filmgoers and for those who aspire to make documentaries themselves.

**About the Series:** Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, *Very Short Introductions* offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This got me through class and got me the credits - fun read actually

I nice small concise book, it was required reading for a class, so I had no choice. It's ok, it wasn't expensive, and it's ok.

I'm constantly looking for new ways to expand my portfolio and directing a documentary film is definitely a project I'm considering. This book has been a great introduction to the goals/execution of making a documentary.

I read the whole book in 2 sittings. Very well written and organized. A good read for documentary film lovers. Especially beginners.

Short.Sweet.Easy to comprehend.Doesn't give you a complete visual, but manages to give you a taste of docs.

I really like the way that he outlines documentary film types, but I think that certain examples could use a lot more description.

Aufderheide's small book is packed with information, but so beautifully organized you can actually find what you're looking for. Tight, cogent prose makes it both an excellent history of, and an inviting introduction to documentary film. And once you've read it, you have a nifty little handbook!

Good book to read, easy to understand, one of the better books I read for college.

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