

UN1001: Perspectives on Inquiry

Section #17: Hip Hop Culture, History & Politics

Documentary, *n.* “factual, realistic; applied esp. to a film or literary work, based on real events or circumstances, and intended primarily for instruction or record purposes.”

Document, *v.* “to furnish (a person) with evidence; to keep informed or instructed ... to prove or support (something) by documentary evidence.”

“Documentary has come to suggest incompleteness and uncertainty, recollection and impression, images of personal worlds and their subjective construction” (Bill Nichols, *Representing Reality: Issues and Concepts in Documentary.*)

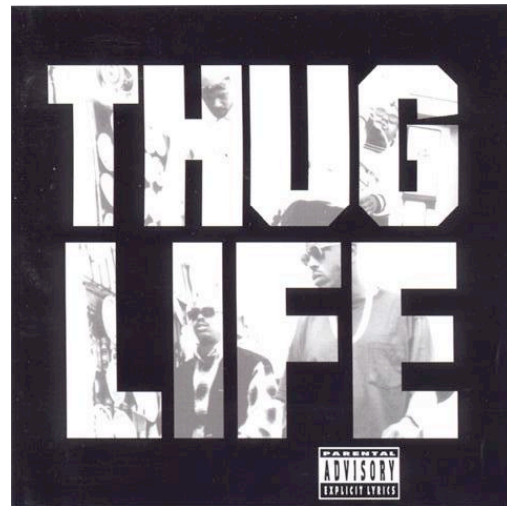
Inquiry Project

Purposes: up until this point in this class, you’ve been asked to work with other people’s ideas, materials, research, and inquiries. For example, we’ve asked if meaning and knowledge are readily available through “textual” or “contextual” means; we’ve analyzed images and films, asking how identity formation functions in both public and private spaces; we’ve done close readings and language-based research in the *OED*.

In this final unit the emphasis now shifts to *how the class decides* to define inquiry and exploration, which can be individual or team-based. You will focus on a specific question or topic that you want to pursue.

Based on recent class discussions, those options might include:

- A documentary that explores, instructs, or performs some aspect of your topic (documenting students playing and discussing *Grand Theft Auto*, for example) or videotaped interviews that explore central questions from our discussions
- A multimedia presentation of your inquiry into the mix of visual design and cultural uses of hip hop aesthetics
- A written reflective piece on an unresolved question: *what is hip hop*, for example, drawing on your personal experience to answer the question
- Compose and perform a lyric that draws upon the conventions of hip hop and that includes your own intellectual and aesthetic take on the genre



How “to document”?

Those of you pursuing video projects will decide how to edit your materials for final presentation. If you are pursuing recorded interviews or lyrics, include with your summaries or transcriptions the sound files pressed to a CD or some other appropriate format.

Deadlines:

Tuesday, 4/7: Inquiry Project Proposal and Abstract

Monday, 4/27: Inquiry Project & Reflection Letter