

Analyzing Deception

Introduction: Throughout the semester we have been examining different methods of deception. Marketable biographies, manipulative interview techniques, critically thought out video editing are all methods by which individuals, and groups, craft the way in which certain elements will be perceived. This process, as innocent as it may seem, can be interpreted as a method by which small lies can turn into significant cultural observations. For this paper you will analyze different layers of deception in one of two films that we screened in class and demonstrate your ability to interpret visual and auditory information that has been hurled your way.

Requirements: For this assignment you will write a paper that takes a critical look at one of the two films we watched in class - *The Fog Of War* (Errol Morris, 2003) and *Exit Through The Gift Shop* (Banksy, 2010). Your paper must meet the following guidelines:

- Must be at least 2.5 pages in length, double-spaced, and typed in 12 point Times New Roman font
- Heading must consist of two lines: one with your name and one with the title of the assignment. There should be no title
- Have a clear beginning, middle, and end that is structured around a concrete theory
- Use between 2 and 3 examples from the film with clear explanations about how this supports your idea theory
- Have a defined thesis statement that is at the end of your opening paragraph.

Examples Topics:

- How can the creation of a fake character be used to critique the art world?
- What role does B-roll play in altering the viewer's perspective of historic topics?
- How does a "true first person" perspective change the way in which the viewer trusts a filmmaker's material?
- Within *Exit Through The Gift Shop*, how does the director develop a narrative that encourages a viewer to trust the information he/she is being shown?
- Examine the relationship between the interviewer and the interviewee. Explain how the interviewee's answers can be deceptively altered to further hone a filmmaker's point.
- Both films give the viewer a defined history. How do you see the filmmaker taking creative liberties in the way in which history is perceived and how does that creative license change the public's perception of time?
- Documentary filmmaking is arguably the hardest type of movie making. With that said, it is also argued that documentary filmmaking is merely one step away from fictional narrative filmmaking. Explain how a film can straddle the line between fictional narrative film and documentary. Think about different editing methods the director chooses in order to explain specific ideas and themes.