

This is a splendid extended essay. The topic is fully and intelligently investigated and from the outset it is clear where the essay is heading. The topic is clearly delineated in the introduction. It would have been preferable to have the brief introductions to each director incorporated into the body of the discussion, but this is a small structural point.

The student shows a most pleasing sense of engagement with the topic and writes critically with fully appropriate film terminology. The student reflects an impressive understanding of the various controversies surrounding the nature of reality in documentary film-making.

It is clear that the student undertook his research with great care and dedication. Supporting quotations are incisive and most apt from the first quotation from Picasso and on through the entire essay.

The student offers a most laudable combination of theoretical awareness and strong textual analysis skills. There are some insightful and rich comparisons and contrasts discussed showing an intimate knowledge of all three film-makers.

Overall, although there are occasional moments of awkward expression, and the claim that Wiseman is the “most real” needs a little fuller analysis, this does not detract from it being a most sophisticated and successful extended essay.