Analysis – “9/11”

Production details:

Naudet Jules and Gedeon, Hanlon James, 2001, *9/11*, Goldfish Pictures.

Audience: Key Questions

* Who is the documentary aimed at in terms of content, subject matter, themes and values?
* What is it about this documentary that is supposed to appeal to the target audience?
* Why is this sort of audience being targeted?
* What effect is the documentary intended to have on the audience? Explain.
* What qualities within the documentary might appeal to a broader audience?

Techniques: Key Questions

* What are the techniques that have been specially selected to convey the message?
* How has the camera been positioned to give us a particular point of view of the subject?
* How have special effects been used to contribute to the meaning of the documentary?
* In what order have the events been presented to us? Why?
* What sound effects and lighting techniques or other devices have been used to build images and impressions?

Agents: Key Questions

* Who are the people responsible for making this product? Producer? Director? Camera? Editing? Narrating? Researching? Sound? and so on.
* Have these people collaborated before? Do they share common interests and viewpoints?
* Is the documentary and narration constructed from a particular viewpoint or political bias?
* How is the particular viewpoint constructed in the film?
* Why have the central relationships or ideas been presented in this way?
* What changes might be made if the documentary was being made today?

Values: Key Questions

* What values are being presented, supported or challenged?
* Why are those values being supported or challenged?
* How are those values constructed in the film?
* Whose ‘voice’ or values are being heard, and whose are not?
* How does the documentary present information – fairly, or in a one-sided or biased manner?
* How are the concepts of dominance, co-existence and subordination developed?
* Do these values remain valid today?

Documentary: Key Questions

* Does the film attempt to tell a true story in a non-dramatic fashion?
* Does the film present only factual evidence?
* Does the film recreate and interpret the truth as opposed to presenting reality?
* Is the film’s narrative and representation of reality objective?
* What evidence is used to depict the facts?
* Does it present all factual evidence in its original context?
* Is this film still relevant today? Why?