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| STRUCTURE | Model | LANGUAGE FEATURES |
| * explain what a documentary is and that it is subjective
* Introduce Bowling for Columbine as an example
* give some background info – who? where? when?
* what is the viewpoint/position of documentarY
* thesis statement – position is shaped/constructed by variety of film techniques, especially

................................................................. (these will be the techniques which you discuss in your essay IN ORDER | Documentaries are commonly believed to be films about ‘real life’. However, it is more accurate to say that documentaries present the film maker’s point of view which is constructed through different film techniques. An example of this is American Michael Moore’s “Bowling for Columbine” (2002) which represents Moore’s position on gun violence in the USA. Moore argues that gun violence is an integral part of life in the USA, that it is created by fear generated by the media to divert attention from other issues such as poverty and scandal. To invite the viewer to accept his point of view, Moore uses a variety of film techniques, most importantly, camera shots and angles, music and editing which construct Moore’s representation of gun violence. | Use of passive voice – *it is believed/thought*Use of linking words different = *a variety of, varying, various, a range of**An example is = this is exemplified by*Long noun group – a lot of information in front of the nounFirst time – use full name, after that, use surname only*Argues = claims, believes, postulates, proposes*Change of word order to emphasise purpose*Uses = employs, utilises, applies, exploits, engages*Use of punctuation – commas to separate items in a list |
| Topic sentence: Identify one of the filmic techniques Explain/define the techniqueExample: Provide an example from the film.Elaboration: Explain how he positions the audience to believe this, by identifying the effect of the technique.Example: Provide an example from the film.Elaboration: Explain how he positions the audience to believe this, by identifying the effect of the technique.Continue your analysis of another technique.Concluding sentence – sum up how this links to thesis | One technique used by Moore to construct his point of view is the use of confrontation. This refers to Moore’s strategy of talking to people who are not prepared to be interviewed and who find themselves caught unaware. One example is when Moore decides to talk to Dick Clarke, the owner of the grill where Tamarla Owens worked. Moore is filmed talking to Dick Clarke sitting in his van. The camera looks up into the van; the long shot emphasises Clarke’s reluctance to talk to Moore who questions him unrelentingly. This confrontation emphasises how business owners, like Clarke, refuse to acknowledge the poverty of their employees and makes them appear hard and uncaring. Confrontation is also evident in the Kmart scene where Moore questions an unprepared Kmart employee. Again this technique constructs the position that large businesses profit at the expense of innocent individuals. Through the use of confrontation, Moore positions the audience to see that gun violence is exacerbated by the disinterest and greediness of business. | Reduced relative clauses – which is used byPresent tense use of referencing wordsIntroducing phrases – *this is shown/demonstrated/exemplified; one instance is*Reduced relative clause – giving extra informationPassive*Highlights/shows/demonstrates/portrays/accentuates/underlines/calls attention to* Linking wordLinking wordNoun phraseUse of nouns (nominalisation |
| Restating main ideaRestating thesis | The documentary ‘Bowling for Columbine’ constructs Moore’s position on gun violence in the USA. Through the use of particular techniques, namely camera shots, music and editing, the film maker invites the audience to understand how gun violence is generated by many factors such as media, racial inequality and fear. The result is a powerful and thought provoking documentary. | *Such as/specifically/that is* |