Annotated Film Bibliography
For
College Park High School


Independent journalists Jeremy Scahill, Glenn Greenwald, and Michael Moore expose government lies and corporate deception, inspired by the legendary investigative journalist I.F. Stone. All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone is a theatrical documentary created by a team of Emmy Award-winning filmmakers, who subscribed to I. F. Stone’s newsletter in their teens. “I. F. Stone’s Weekly” inspired us then, and compels us now to tell the story of a new wave of independent, investigative, adversarial journalists following in Stone’s footsteps. We hope this film will inspire the next generation of independent journalists, many of whom are now in college, to carry on I.F. Stone’s legacy of speaking truth to power. This film will change the way you look at the mainstream media or “MSM”. Giant media conglomerates are increasingly reluctant to investigate or criticize government policies – particularly on defense, security and intelligence issues. They are ceding responsibility for holding governments and corporations accountable to the independent journalists and filmmakers who risk their careers, their freedom and their lives in war zones – to expose the truth. With government deception rampant, and intrusion of state surveillance into private life never more egregious, independent voices like Glenn Greenwald, Jeremy Scahill, and Amy Goodman are crucially important. All three are inspired by the iconoclastic rebel journalist named I. F. Stone, whose fearless, independent reporting from 1953 to 1971 filled a tiny 4-page newsletter which he wrote, published, and carried to the mailbox every week. Stone is little known today, but All Governments Lie will reveal the profound influence he's had on contemporary independent journalists like Greenwald, Scahill, Goodman and others.


In the first year of Donald Trump’s presidency, Daryle Lamont Jenkins, an Antifa activist, combats the rise of the alt-right movement, while Richard Spencer, an alt-right leader, fights to gain ground, culminating in a tragic showdown in Charlottesville.


In Constructing Public Opinion, Professor Justin Lewis provides an innovative lens through which to view the relationship between politics, media, and the public. He demonstrates how public opinion polls are used by the media to not just reflect what Americans think, but to actually
construct public opinion itself. Exploding the myth that most Americans are moderate or conservative, Constructing Public Opinion shows the way in which political elites help to promote the military-industrial complex and how the media sustains belief in an electoral system with a built-in bias against the interests of ordinary people. Illustrated with cutting-edge graphics and examples of media coverage, it is the first film of its kind to present a critical analysis of media and public opinion.

United States: State Run Films.

Filmmaker Michael Moore predicted that Donald Trump would become the 45th president of the United States. Traveling across the country, Moore interviews American citizens to get a sense of the social, economic and political impact of Trump’s victory. Moore also takes an in-depth look at voting, the Electoral College, the government agenda, the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., and the water crisis in his hometown of Flint, Mich.

Kaplowitz, D. (Director). (2002). In whose interest? [Documentary]. United States:
Bullfrog Films.

Filmmaker David Kaplowitz leads us on an eye opening journey, questioning the effects of U.S. foreign policy over the past 50 years. Revealing a pattern of intervention, the film focuses on Guatemala, Vietnam, East Timor, El Salvador, and Palestine/Israel. Archival footage, photographs and media tidbits are dynamically interwoven with personal eye-witness accounts and commentary from academics – such as Noam Chomsky – religious leaders and politicians. In Whose Interest? is informative and disturbingly honest, yet upbeat, with twists of irony and humor.


Campaign financing is a serious issue in the executive and legislative branches. But has the judicial branch fallen prey to the mad scramble for money too? Bill Moyers investigates the problem of campaign cash in the branch which can probably least afford to bought and paid for by special interests.

PRICELESS: Q: Why did the politician cross the road? (see answer below)

Is American democracy suffering from a wobble, and can it be fixed? Join us as we follow the money, from big industry campaign coffers to K Street and Capitol Hill, through two major American policies (farm & energy) and right back into the pockets of the same industries we began with! It'll be fun. Along the way we'll meet citizens who've felt the impact of these policies, and those who've decided to do something about it.

A: To get to a fundraising office and plead for bucks.


Project Censored The Movie: Ending the Reign of Junk Food News takes an in depth look at what is wrong with the news media in the US today and highlights the work of 37 year veteran media democracy organization Project Censored (PC) and their commitment to media literacy education as an antidote to top-down, managed news propaganda and censorship. This film, made by former PC Sonoma State University student Doug Hecker and longtime Project supporter Christopher Oscar, features original interviews about PC and media censorship with Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Michael Parenti, Greg Palast, Oliver Stone, Daniel Ellsberg, Peter Kuznick, Cynthia McKinney, Nora Barrows-Friedman, John Perkins, Jonah Raskin, Khalil Bendib, Pacifica and KPFA Free Speech Radio personalities, Abby Martin of Breaking the Set, Al Jazeera English, several PC affiliated faculty, students, and features Project founder Dr. Carl Jensen, former director and president of the Media Freedom Foundation Dr. Peter Phillips, current director Prof. Mickey Huff, and associate director Dr. Andy Lee Roth and much, much MORE!


The award-winning documentary film, #ReGENERATION, explores the galvanizing forces behind the Occupy Movement and the state of social activism in our society. The film takes an uncompromising look at the challenges facing today’s youth and young adults as they attempt to engage on a myriad of social and political issues. Focused on how our education, parenting, and media can influence us, the film follows three separate walks of life representing today’s generation. Each brings their own unique perspective – from an inspired collective of musicians working outside the corporate system, to a twenty-something conservative family about to welcome the birth of their second child, and a group of five high-school students from the suburbs looking for their place in society. Their stories are interspersed with the knowledge, wisdom, and personal reflections of some of the country’s leading scholars, social activists, and media personalities, including Noam Chomsky, the late Howard Zinn, Adbusters’ Kalle Lasn, Andrew Bacevich, Talib Kweli, and many others. Narrated by Ryan Gosling and featuring a riveting soundtrack from STS9, the film explores how today’s generation approaches activism, how it is impacted by technology, our disconnection with nature and history, our consumer culture, and the economic factors holding many of us back from becoming more active participants in our communities. Through a diverse and intelligent series of stories, interviews
and insights, we come to a deeper understanding of the influences shaping our society. We have entered uncharted territory, economically, environmentally, and intellectually—and we must look honestly at ourselves to create a sustainable future.


*REQUIEM FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM* is the definitive discourse with Noam Chomsky, widely regarded as the most important intellectual alive, on the defining characteristic of our time - the deliberate concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a select few. Through interviews filmed over four years, Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality - tracing a half century of policies designed to favor the most wealthy at the expense of the majority - while also looking back on his own life of activism and political participation. Profoundly personal and thought provoking, Chomsky provides penetrating insight into what may well be the lasting legacy of our time - the death of the middle class, and swan song of functioning democracy. A potent reminder that power ultimately rests in the hands of the governed, *REQUIEM* is required viewing for all who maintain hope in a shared stake in the future.


The Great White Hoax, featuring acclaimed anti-racist educator and author Tim Wise, explores how American political leaders of both parties have been tapping into white anxiety, stoking white grievance, and scapegoating people of color for decades to divide and conquer working class voters and shore up political support. The film’s primary focus is Donald Trump’s race-baiting 2016 campaign for the presidency. But it also widens its scope to show how Trump’s charged rhetoric about African-Americans, Latinos, and Muslims fits within a longstanding historical pattern, offering a stunning survey of how racism and racial scapegoating have shaped American politics for centuries. The Great White Hoax is an ideal resource for courses that look at race relations, white privilege, the intersectionality of race, class, and gender identities, presidential politics, and political propaganda.


Third Party is a documentary film that makes a comprehensive survey of today’s major United States third party efforts. Interviews with leaders in the Libertarian, Green, Reform, Labor, Communist, Socialist, Working Families, and Workers World parties are interspersed with commentary from activists and academics including Ronnie Dugger, Francis Fox Piven, Howard Zinn, Jeremy Brecher, Noam Chomsky and others. The film looks carefully at what motivates and inspires parties vying for a foothold in a country so dominated politically by the Democrats and Republicans. This feature length film explores their strategies, their issues, and their thoughts on the obstacles they face. Not merely an academic exercise, the film weaves in the story of the third party candidacy of Mike DeRosa, one of the thousands of everyday Americans who run for office each year under a third party banner. DeRosa’s story, as a member of the Green Party of Connecticut running for State Senate in 2002, illustrates what it’s like to run as a political alternative in a system and culture design for two. An educational and inspiring mosaic of the
lesser-known political visionaries fighting to bring serious change to an actual democracy in danger of slipping into a virtual one.


*Inspired by Naomi Klein’s international non-fiction bestseller This Changes Everything, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana’s Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein’s narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.*


*In a riveting and dramatic narrative, Torturing Democracy tells how the U.S. government adopted torture as official policy in the aftermath of 9/11. With exclusive interviews, explosive documents and rare archival footage, award-winning filmmaker Sherry Jones has crafted the definitive account of a deeply troubling chapter in recent American history. Torturing Democracy carefully presents the evidence that leads straight to the top of the chain of command – and so lays to rest the “rotten apple” defense for abusive interrogations at Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib and elsewhere.*