

**Annotated Film Bibliography
For
College Park High School**

**Ridgeway, J. (Producer). (1991). *Blood in the face*. [Documentary]. United States:
First Run Features.**

A darkly humorous and frightening closeup view of today's far right movement, Blood in the Face uses archival footage and interviews to reveal the workings of the Klu Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, the Aryan Nations, and David Duke. The most controversial and compelling film of the year, Blood in the Face is as timely as it is powerful. With interviews by Michael Moore (Roger & Me), the film was conceived by James Ridgeway (political correspondent for The Village Voice and author of the book Blood in the Face) with co-producers Anne Bohlen (Academy Award Nominee) and Kevin Rafferty (co-producer of The Atomic Café) who also shoot and edited the film.

Lewis, J. (Narrator). (2002). *Constructing public opinion: How politicians and the media misrepresent the public*. [Documentary]. (Available from the Media Education Foundation, 26 Center Street, Northampton, MA 01060 or www.mediaed.org)

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.

Moyers, B. (Producer). (2004). *George Farah on Presidential Debates*. NOW with Bill Moyers. Accessed at: [http://www. http://billmoyers.com/content/george-farah-on-presidential-debates/](http://www.billmoyers.com/content/george-farah-on-presidential-debates/)

According to campaign expert Kathleen Hall Jamieson, contrary to popular belief, the amount of negative campaigning in speeches and debates remains relatively low. What have changed however, are the viewing habits of the American public when it comes to presidential debates. In 1960, over 66 million people watched the first televised debate out of a total population of 178 million. Even in 1980, the numbers were high, with over 80 million watching the debate between Reagan and Carter. But since then even as the population has swelled to over 294 million, the numbers have slipped, with only 46.6 million watching the first debate in 2000, and nearly ten

million less watching the second and third debates. NOW invites you to explore the history of presidential debates and to discover how the Commission on Presidential Debates works.

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.*

Rossi, A. (Producer and Director). (2014). *Ivory tower: Is college worth the cost?*

[Documentary]. United States: CNN Films and Participant Media.

As tuition rates spiral beyond reach and student loan debt passes \$1 trillion (more than credit card debt), IVORY TOWER asks: Is college worth the cost? From the halls of Harvard, to public colleges in financial crisis, to Silicon Valley, filmmaker Andrew Rossi (PAGE ONE: INSIDE THE NEW YORK TIMES) assembles an urgent portrait of a great American institution at the breaking point. Through profiles at Arizona State, Cooper Union, and San Jose State —among several others—IVORY TOWER reveals how colleges in the United States, long regarded as leaders in higher education, came to embrace a business model that often promotes expansion over quality learning. But along the way we also find unique programs, from Stanford to the free desert school Deep Springs to the historically black all women's college Spelman, where the potential for life-changing college experiences endure. Ultimately, IVORY TOWER asks, What price will society pay if higher education cannot revolutionize college as we know it and evolve a sustainable economic model?

Talbot, S. & Kaplan S. (Producers). (1999). *Frontline: Justice for sale.* [Television

broadcast]. New York: Public Broadcasting Service.

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 be bought and paid for by special interests.

Ennis, J. W. (Producer, Writer, Director). (2014). *Pay to play: Democracy's high*

stakes. [Documentary]. United States: Shoot First Inc.

If our political system is like a game of Monopoly, how can outsiders have a voice when only money speaks? John Ennis documents comical corruption, follows political newcomers, and uncovers intrigue in this colorful journey that connects the dots of Big Money in our ever-challenging election process.

Cowan, S. (Producer and Director). (2011). *Priceless*. [Documentary]. United

States: Habitat Media.

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.*

Oscar, C. & Hecker, D. (Producer, Writer, Director). (2013). *Project Censored: The movie*. [Documentary]. United States: Hole in the Media Productions.

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!

Lynch, K. (Narrator). (1998). *Proportional representation and instant runoff voting (IRV): The sensible alternative*. [Documentary]. Available from the Center for Voting and Democracy.

This video explores the alternative representation systems of proportional representation (PR) and instant runoff voting (IRV). With sophisticated graphics and real-life examples, narrator Kelly Lynch lays out an argument for this "much more democratic and fair" alternative to the single-member district / winner-take-all method we currently have in the US.

Montgomery, P. (Writer and Director). (2012). *Regeneration*. [Documentary].

United States: Virgil Films.

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.

Hutchison, P., Nykes, K., Scott, J. (Producers and Directors). (2016). *Requiem for the American dream*. United States: Naked City Films.

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.

Palast, G. (Writer and Director). *The best democracy money can buy: A tale of billionaires & ballot bandits*. [Documentary]. United States: Best Democracy Films.

Follow gonzo investigative reporter Greg Palast (BBC, Rolling Stone) as he busts the new Ku Klux Klan – the billionaire bandits that are behind a scheme to purge one million voters of color in November. With the help of Willie Nelson, Rosario Dawson, and detectives Ice-T and Richard Belzer, Palast tracks down the secret billionaires behind Donald Trump. His investigation goes from the Arctic where Palast is clued in to the heist by a foul-mouthed Eskimo, then on to a speed boat to a high class event in the Hamptons, and finally a jump on the ballot rustler known as “The Vulture.” With Palast's inimitable style (“funnier than Michael Moore, more substantial than Naomi Klein” – The Guardian) and cartoons by the man who drew “Who Framed Roger Rabbit,” this is not just a documentary – it is a non-fiction, real life, high stakes detective mission. Palast, says Jim Hightower, is “[a] cross between Sam Spade and Sherlock Holmes” and this investigation shows just how true that statement is. Joined by his sidekick Ms. Badpenny, Palast names the ballot bandits and shines a light on the shadowy tactics employed by the GOP officials that do their bidding. Greg Palast is an investigative reporter for the BBC and the Guardian who busted Katherine Harris' fake felon purge that stole the election for Bush in 2000. His work has been

called “courageous reporting” (Michael Moore) that is funny, heartbreaking, and loaded with “facts like hand grenades” (John Pilger)

Martinez, R. (Producer and Director). (2013). *The lottery of birth*. [Documentary].

United States: Mangusta Productions.

From directors Raoul Martinez and Joshua van Praag comes the first installment in the “Creating Freedom” series. Offering a torrent of mind-expanding ideas, The Lottery of Birth is going to make you think again about what it means to be free. With a stellar cast bringing together leading activists, journalists, and the best minds in psychology, history and philosophy, it explores a simple idea: the more we understand the limits on our freedom, the better placed we are to transcend them. From birth onwards, our minds are a battleground of competing forces. The outcome of this battle determines the society we create. The Lottery of Birth looks at the cultural, educational and commercial forces that shape our identities, often in ways that limit both our personal and political freedom.

Media Education Foundation. *The myth of the liberal media: The propaganda*

***model of news*. [Documentary]. (Available from the Media Education**

Foundation, 26 Center Street, Northampton, MA 01060 or

www.mediaed.org)

Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky have developed a comprehensive framework for understanding how the news is produced and in whose interests it works. In The Myth of the Liberal Media, they demolish one of the central tenets of our political culture: the idea of the “liberal media.” Instead, they argue that the news media are so subordinated to corporate and conservative interests that their function can only be described as that of “elite propaganda.”

Burns, M. (Producer and Director). (2003). *Third party: Political alternatives in the*

***age of duopoly*. [Documentary]. United States: The Cinema Guild.**

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 designed 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.

Marie-Monique, R. (Writer and Director). (2010). *Torture: Made in USA*.

[Documentary]. Arte France: Galaxy Release Films.

Exactly how did the world's most powerful democracy construct and implement a dubious legal framework that not only legalized the use of torture but legitimized it to politicians, academics, intellectuals, and media pundits alike? Who exactly was behind this dark and hotly debated chapter in American history? Internationally acclaimed journalist and filmmaker Robin Marie-Monique set out to investigate the historic events and machinations of key policy leaders that led the U.S. to use systematic torture on a massive scale in Afghanistan, Guantanamo and Iraq in the name of national security and the War on Terror. Mixing stunning archival footage and on-the-ground detective work, the film includes exclusive interviews with several key players including: General Ricardo Sanchez, former commander of the coalition forces in Iraq (who speaks for the first time on camera); Larry Wilkerson, Colin Powell's former Chief of Staff; Matthew Waxman, former advisor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Alberto Mora, former US Navy General Counsel; and Michael Scheuer, chief architect of the CIA's Extraordinary Renditions program.

Jones, S. (Writer and Director). (2008). *Torturing democracy*. [Documentary].

**United States: Washington Media Associates and the National Security
Archive.**

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.