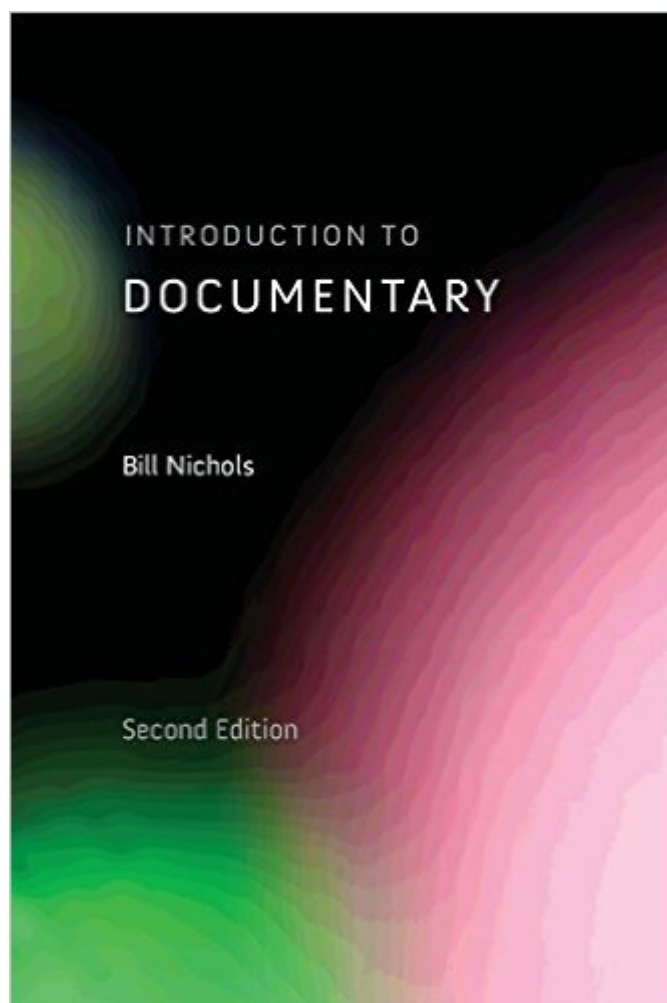


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# Introduction To Documentary, Second Edition



## Synopsis

This new edition of Bill Nichols's™ bestselling text provides an up-to-date introduction to the most important issues in documentary history and criticism. Designed for students in any field that makes use of visual evidence and persuasive strategies, *Introduction to Documentary* identifies the distinguishing qualities of documentary and teaches the viewer how to read documentary film. Each chapter takes up a discrete question, from "How did documentary filmmaking get started?" to "Why are ethical issues central to documentary filmmaking?" Carefully revised to take account of new work and trends, this volume includes information on more than 100 documentaries released since the first edition, an expanded treatment of the six documentary modes, new still images, and a greatly expanded list of distributors.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I have taught many undergraduate courses in documentary film and have always used this book as the core text of my class. The first edition was short and clear (or at least as clear as I've come to hope for with academic writing). Unfortunately, this edition is at least twice as long and at least twice as confusing. It is full of "charts" that really don't make any sense. All of the primary topics have been divided up into so many categories and sub-categories and split across multiple chapters that the result is quite difficult to follow. My students are confused by it, and frankly, so am I. I still give it three stars because I love how it is organized into a series of compelling questions (rather than the stodgier and more traditional chronological approach, which does me no good as I teach theory & production, not history), because it still has a good deal to recommend it in terms of covering the

main points you'd want covered, and because I think it's probably still the best there is. But I really wish we could do better for our students. I don't think my lone review here will make any difference, because this book will be assigned widely regardless of whether it is any good. I do hope, however, that a better "Introduction to Documentary" text designed for undergraduate students comes along to replace this one very soon!!

The text itself is very helpful and gave me all the answers I needed in the course I was taking on documentary studies. The issue I had with this book is as an ebook, I did not get page numbers, which made it extremely difficult to follow along with what my professor assigned for reading. I made it through, but it was a lot harder than it needed to be. The content of the book was clear and well explained and very helpful overall. I would recommend this text to anyone with interest in documentary studies

I enjoyed this book. It helped me with a couple papers I had to write for a journalism and social documentary class. However, the chapters can get repetitive and it seems to touch on the same points over and over. I would recommend this book for journalism, social documentary, film/communication technologies classes.

So many people say they want to write memoirs or creative non-fiction. This book does a great job of identifying the elements that go into producing those stories in (distorted because all documentaries are not news stories but news with a twist stories) distorted methods. It's all here, voice, structure, modes. It's not a how-to book but a book that explains the physics and structure of analyzing and developing documentary versus fictional films.

Used this book for a class. The content is comprehensive. My only complaint is that the page numbers don't have corresponding loc numbers.

Had this book as assigned reading for a Documentary class I took at Saint Edward's- it's one of the few textbooks I've held onto and returned to over the years. Great selection of information!

was an interesting read. maybe a little bland for people who aren't using it for a class, or super fans of documentaries.

Read this book as part of a class at CU Denver. Great read.

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