 Researching Film Context

Critical Thinking When Researching

When you choose your source, consider the following questions to assess its credibility:

1. Who composed this?
2. What is their position?
3. Why did they compose this? What was their purpose?
4. Is this an informative piece or a persuasive piece? How do I know?
5. Is the claim outlandish? What makes it so?
6. Can I find opposing opinions to balance out this perspective?
7. Is this a blog or peer-reviewed journal?
8. With the advent of 24/7 news, we need to be alert to the fact that accuracy of information can change quickly. Is this the last post on an issue or the first?
9. Can I qualify this article/visual by looking at other references they have stated?

You will be placed in groups and will be responsible for composing a presentation on ONE of the following contexts. You will need to:

1. Research the context allocated to your group
2. Select the most important details relevant to the film
3. Compose a presentation that links the context to the text
4. Present your findings to the class in a 5 minute presentation

Here is a table that can assist in directing the research

Fear of Something Drives Them All

| 1950s McCarthy | 2001 Bush Administration | 2017 Trump Admin |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Religion: The Soviets were the heathens and the Americans were the good Christians.
* Capitalists versus Communists
* The Red Scare
 | * Religion
* Rise of Islamophobia
* September 11 attacks
* Guantanamo Bay
 | * Capitalism as priority
* Strong links to Corporate America
* The increasing movement to right wing politics
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| * House Un-American Activities
* Pressure on media personalities to mind their views
* Hypocrisy of democracy
 | * Patriot Act
* Media as patriotic rather than provocateur - media ignores the basis of war and therefore do not do their jobs in holding the government to account
 | * Travel Ban/Immigration Policy
* Fake News - Media as Enemy
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PERSONAL CONTEXT: EXPERIENCES AND POLITICS OF DIRECTOR: GEORGE CLOONEY

| Clooney’s Background | How might that impact his perspective of what he is creating?  |
| --- | --- |
| Father was a journalist |       |
| Clooney had experience of the newsroom |       |
| Clooney’s politics - research what he has said, what he has been involved in and what feature films he has directed or acted in that may determine his political leanings |       |
| Student Choice |       |