

DEFINITIONS

Historical context refers to details about the time and place surrounding a story or event. This information allows us to think about what life was like at the time the story or event takes place.

Historical accuracy asks if the story told in the book or film matches the true history of an event.

Basic documentary terms:

- **Re-enactment** involves acting out a past event using actors.
- **Live-action footage** features real people and places instead of computer-generated images.
- **Stock or historical footage** are films and images from the past

Documentaries:

- are storytelling that explores factual stories and issues using film
- often make an assertion and then present reasoning and evidence to support their claims

PART ONE: BEFORE VIEWING
Complete the chart about the film you will watch.

FILM INFORMATION

| Film Title: | Date of original release? |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| | |

| Can documentaries contain fictional elements? Why or why not? | What do you already know about the history shown in the film? | What questions do you have about this history? |
|---|---|--|
| | | |

PART 2: DURING VIEWING
Record three references to historical events.

| HISTORICAL EVENT | DESCRIBE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, AND HOW |
|------------------|---|
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| | |
| | |

Holocaust Film Guide

STUDENT INTERACTIVE: DOCUMENTARY

NAME: _____

PART 3: AFTER VIEWING

HISTORICAL FACT-CHECKING

Based on your teacher's instruction, choose one or all of the three historical references you noted while watching the film and then check for historical accuracy. Use the Timeline displayed in the classroom (or the [online version](#)) and the [Holocaust Encyclopedia](#). Additionally, you can use additional sources in the [Museum's online collections search](#) to fact check, including artifacts, maps, primary source archival footage, and survivor testimony.

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|--|--|
| HISTORICAL EVENT | |
| Did you find any differences between what you saw in the film and what you learned from the primary and secondary sources? | |
| What could be the reason for the differences? | |
| What responsibilities does the director have to represent history accurately? | |