Writing a Documentary Review

Step 1 Give details of the documentary
- Title of the documentary
- Intended audience

Step 2 Explain the purpose of the documentary
- What is the purpose of the documentary?
- What is the main message the director wants to get across to the audience?

Step 3 State your prior knowledge of the subject
- Did you know anything about the subject before you watched the documentary?
- What did you expect to see?
- What questions did you have about the subject?

Step 4 Summarise the documentary
- Who / What is the subject of the documentary?
- What is the documentary about? What are the main events (if any)?
- Where was it filmed?

Step 5 Talk about the sound effects, camera work, interviews and special effects
- Do you like the sound effects?
- Are the images sharp?
- How is the filming? What camera angles were used?
- Do you like the interviews? What have you learned from the interviews?
- Are there any special effects?

Step 6 Give personal comments and recommendation
- Which part of the documentary do you like most?
- What have you learned from it?
- Was there anything that surprised you?
- What are the drawbacks of the documentary?
- Would you recommend this documentary to your friends?