Short Assignment #3: Analysis and Argument Through Film

Films have arguments and make specific claims about experiences of being in the world. This assignment is meant to be an exercise in learning how films argue for something and what this argument can be. Before we make our own film, we need to acquaint ourselves with the tools of filmmaking!

Your Task

1. Pick three categories of analysis from our glossary that you are interested in.
2. Re-watch Ellis.
3. Write a 2-to-3-page analysis of the documentary, focusing on the three categories you have picked and using at least two terms listed in the handout for each category. You need to cite specific moments in the film by referring to the related time (e.g. 08:34) or time range (e.g. 08:34–09:12). Your analysis needs to address the question of what effects these filmic techniques (internal diegetic sound, shot-reverse shot, extreme long shot, etc.) produce on the audience and whether they are effective or not. In short, you are reading the film as a persuasive text via its techniques.

Rubric
A successful paper

- includes the required amount of supporting evidence from the film.
- uses the correct film terms to identify elements of the film.
- clearly explains what the film is doing through its use of filmic techniques.

4.0–3.9—fulfills all three requirements.
3.8–3.5—fulfills two requirements while leaving one undeveloped.
3.4–3.0—fulfills two requirements.
2.9–2.5—fulfills one requirement while leaving one undeveloped.
<2.5—fulfills only one requirement.

Format
Minimum 2 full pages, Times New Roman, 12 points, double space, 1-inch margins, in .doc or .pdf format.