

## Types of documentaries:

### Nature documentary's:

A nature documentary is a genre of documentary films about animals, plants, or other non-human living creatures. The first nature documentary in the cinema was called Nanook of the north and was made by Robert J. Flaherty In 1922. The decades later Walt-Disney made two movies called the living desert (1953) and the vanishing prairie (1954).

### poetic documentaries:

This is when a film relies on images to tell the story and has no narrator or presenter. The aim of this style is to let the audience find their own viewpoint. Unlike overtly typed of documentaries, this one is more creative and less subjective. Examples of this type of documentaries are Fata Morgana (1971) by Werner Herzog, Samsara (2011) Rob Fricke and Olympia (1938) Leni Riefenstahl

### Participatory Mode:

In this mode, a filmmaker talks with the subjects instead of observing them. You will see them on screen asking questions and being involved in the action. According to Bill Nichols, in these types of documentaries 'the filmmaker becomes a social actor.' Although the filmmaker does not influence the subject, they do tell their own versions of the truth.

### Examples of participatory films are:

Bowling for Columbine (2002) Michael Moore  
Paris is Burning (1990) Jennie Livingston  
My Scientology Movie (2016) Louis Theroux  
Icarus (2017) Bryan Fogel

### Reflexive mode:

These types of documentary films focus on the relationship between the filmmaker and the audience. This mode looks at the filmmaker's life or the people around them. The main difference with this type is that the filmmaker will have personal involvement in the film. You could call this type of film behind the scenes.

### Examples of reflexive mode:

Man with a movie camera (1929) Dziga Vertov  
The Thin Blue Line (1988) Errol Morris

Stories We Tell (2012) Sarah Polley  
This is Spinal Tap (1984) Rob Reiner

#### Observational Mode:

Unlike the other documentary modes, this one simply observes the subject. These films tend to not have music, interviews, or narration. The camera is the fly on the wall, and the audience is free to make their own opinion. In documentary filmmaking you need an interesting subject to focus on the films are more likely to focus on a person or social issue.

Examples of observational mode films are:

Do not look back (1967) D.A. Pennebaker  
Hoop Dreams (1994) Steven James  
War photographer (2001) Christian Frei  
Armadillo (2010) Janus Metz

#### Performative Mode

Performative films are more stylised and focus on a big theme. The filmmaker makes the whole movie an entertaining performance. Often the subject is personal to the presenter, and they are involved in the story. These films tend to be more subjective and opinionated.

Examples of performative mode are:

Super-Size Me (2004) Morgan Spurlock  
Catfish (2010) Ariel Schulman & Henry Joost  
Tongues United (1989) Marlon Riggs  
Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004) Michael Moore

#### References

<https://www.freelancevideocollective.com/types-of-documentary-films/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary\\_film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary_film)