Media Bias in Movies

* You will review FOUR (4) movies.
* Pick one movie in each category. **American Underdog is required.**
* Download the “Media Bias Film Review” and complete the table and worksheet for EACH MOVIE.
* Research the actual events and truth. Compare.
* We will use the film reviews for class discussion.

**Required:** **American Underdog** 2021 Zachary Levi, Anna Paquin [required]

**Sports**

Moneyball 2011 Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill

Remember the Titans 2000 Denzel Washington, Will Patton

McFarland USA 2015 Kevin Costner, Carlos Chalabi

Invincible 2006 Mark Wahlberg, Greg Kinnear

The Express 2008 Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown, Clancy Brown

**Christian**

Facing the Giants 2006 Alex Kendrick, Shannon Fields

Overcomer 2019 Alex Kendrick, Aryn Wright Thompson

For the Glory 2012 [Kurt Kuykendall] Jason Burkey, Chelsie Casagrande

Woodlawn 2015 [Sean Astin] Caleb Castille, Jon Voight

**Disney**

Togo 2019 Willem Defoe

Saving Mr. Banks 2013 Tom Hanks, Emma Thompson

The Rookie 2002 Dennis Quaid

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT BIAS IN MEDIA**

1. Historical films are greatly embellished for viewer interest. For instance, the History Channel adds or deletes many details to capture audiences.
2. Movies are rated in various ways to give us the impression that they are factual (“inspired by a true story” vs. “based on a true story”) … facts are deleted or embellished for audience interest.
3. Chariots of Fire 🡪 Eric Liddell ran and won the 1920 400 m in the Olympics. He began as the favored 100-meter runner, but refused to run on Sunday (his Sabbath). He fell down during the finals of the 400 m race, but still came back to win (underdog). His sister in the movie was portrayed as an antagonist to his racing, but was very much the opposite in real life.
4. Braveheart 🡪 An “inspired by a true story” movie about the life of William Wallace, a little-known hero of Scotland back in the 1200’s. Almost nothing is written about Wallace.
5. Hoosiers 🡪 A “based on a true story” movie about a small, rural, hic town whose basketball team won the Indiana state championship. They were portrayed as farmer-hics, short. There were supposedly only 8 players. The championship game on the movie was definitely presented as a huge underdog coming from behind. In reality, the Hickory Huskers were tall and dominant, blowing away their opponents throughout the state tournament.
6. NEW CASTS

* IRAQ: US soldiers killed in Iraq totaled less than 5000 over 8 years … yet media presented it as a mass slaughter. WWII cost the US millions of lives in just 4 years. Vietnam cost the US well over 100,000 lives in 4 years.
* A US soldier killed a wounded insurgent. The media presented this as a vile act because the insurgent was wounded … not accounting for the fact that the insurgent had just killed the soldier’s partner. Many terrorists dress in civilian clothes for deception and created suicide bombs and raids.

1. Many movies are outright FALSE or politically based (biased)

* The Conspiracy Theory 🡪 man supposed never landed on the moon. This film depicted several “crucial” pieces of information to “prove” that the moon landing was staged in a studio. However, each piece of evidence was refuted scientifically because of clear “doctoring” by the documentary. Millions of people believed the documentary.
* Fahrenheit 911 🡪 Michael Moore in a totally politically based film spewed his opinions and falsehoods about what happened after “9/11.” His purpose was to make president George Bush look incompetent. Millions of people seriously consider his inaccurate, biased propaganda.
* Global Warming 🡪 Al Gore, former vice president of the United States was given the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to prove global warming. His evidence was one sided and easily refuted. He got many scientists to speak on his behalf. Afterward, many other scientists refuted and proved much of his finding false or tentative at best. He also owns a personal jet and several mansions, using more energy than some third world countries.