**Video Production – Documentary**

**Task** **1** **–** **Issues**

When making a documentary, you must consider **accuracy**, **objectivity**, **bias**, **access**, **privacy** and **contract**.

**Accuracy** is the quality of something being precise and exact. Factual programs have to be accurate, as they have to deliver the correct data to the viewers to guarantee that they are not deceived. In order for the information to be accurate a great quantity of research has to take place. Also the material provided has to be facts and not opinions. If the documentary was not accurate they would loose the reliance of their audience that could cause lower viewing ratings. E.G. In the programme ‘Supersize Me’ the presenter regularly states facts that are correct, but often over exaggerates things to make them seem extremely bad making him inaccurate, biased and subjective towards fast food. Another example would be the entertainment documentary programme ‘Top Gear’, when the hosts are telling the audience which cars are the best, although most of the time they do rely on the facts, sometimes they decide on their own opinion on the car; whichever one they personally like best.

**Objectivity** is where you are not subjective by your own individual opinions or views but instead consider other people’s opinions and beliefs and are open to listen to many opinions. Also to make a judgment merely on what you have seen, and do not include any emotions or prejudices. Documentaries use objectivity by gathering all the research and presenting it without being biased or impartial, in order to allow the viewers create their own opinion on the subject. For example, a documentary called ‘Cannabis; ‘what’s the harm?’ the presenter confesses to smoking when he was younger immediately telling the audience he will not be biased. He then continues to talk about the positive effects of marijuana and how common it is for it to be grown and smoked illegally. He shows facts, statistics and interviews with everyday smokers who have successful lives, suggesting that there is nothing wrong with marijuana. However, he then talks about the negative effects of smoking it, the facts and the lives ruined by marijuana.

**Bias** iswhen something only features one side and presents something one-sided. Some documentaries are biased over an argument by supporting one side over another to promote this side to the audience. This may be done by not showing evidence from both sides.Views, facts and focuses have to be equal on both sides of a concept/argument. E.G. The news is not biased as it has to follows the rules of Ofcom.

**Access** is having the freedom/permission to be able to use something E.G. locations, people and objects. When making a documentary and filming where needed you need to first of all acquire permission. If permission is not obtained lawsuits can be filed and the programme will not be complete. Also access to the correct resources that will supply you with vital information will be needed.

**Privacy** is being able to keep something to yourself, everyone has the right to be in the state of being to be free from the public’s attention, you would need permission to document about someone, whether it be their personal life or possessions. For example, the News Of The World were part of a phone hacking scandal where they gained illegal access into a missing girl’s voicemail, listening to her messages and collecting information they would later turn into a report.

**Contract with the viewer** is an unwritten rule that means if you state your show is factual and interesting and then describe what your show is about you have made a promise with your viewers to supply them with the information you said you would as well as it being precise, accurate and interesting. An example of this is ‘Panorama’, they have a contract with their audience that they provide profound research in to many companies etc. in order to provide the audience with a deeper understanding. This is what audiences from the factual programme Panorama expect.