Communication Studies 133

Documentary Film

CSUS – Spring 2022

***Bowling for Columbine***

Credits & Questions

Released: 2002

Running Time: 2:00

Rated: R

Credits:

Directed & Written by: Michael Moore

Music by: Jeff Gibbs

Edited by: Kurt Engfehr

Questions:

1. Do you think BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE is relevant today, or does it seem like a dated piece of filmmaking? Which of Moore’s arguments make sense today, if any?
2. What do you think of Michael Moore’s filmmaking approach in BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE? Was he too anti-gun in his stance, or did he reach an equal footing between providing facts and opinion?
3. What are your thoughts on guns in general? If you are American, do you think it is an intrinsic right of all U.S. citizens to bear arms? Do you feel that the present gun laws are effective? Do you have experience living in a society outside of the U.S.? If so, how is the “gun issue” addressed there?
4. Discuss the film’s title: BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE. Do you think this was an appropriate title for the film? What else could “bowling” represent, thinking in terms of the film’s content?
5. Out of the many possible causes of gun violence (poverty, racial inequality, history of violence, etc.), what do think is the leading cause of mass murders in the U.S.? In the words of Michael Moore, “What is it about us that is so radically different” from other advanced nations?
6. How does fear play a role in your life? Do you consider yourself more trusting or mistrusting of your fellow citizens? How often do you worry about guns, or being shot at?
7. What, if any, practical steps can be taken to reduce gun violence in the United States? Do you think that in 20 years’ time, gun violence will still be as prevalent in the U.S. as it is today?