

Film focus: RUNAWAY SLAVE

Studying the Film

What type/mode of documentary is this?

What audience does it seek to reach?

Does it reach you? Are you affected positively or negatively by this documentary?

Do you end up feeling: Inspired? Angry?

Thrilled? Guilty? Sad? Ready to take action?

What is this film's "argument"?

How does it seek to support this argument?

What is the problem it focuses on? What is the solution it offers?

Examine the premises and the logic used.

Particular focus: Race, racism: historically and today, race relations. Perceived real problem and perceived best solution?

Can you identify specific sections and transitions?

Does it provide useful information, facts, perspectives? Does it educate?

Does this documentary work? If so, how and why? If not, why not?

Consider the role of the narrator, lead character, experts and commentators, individuals interviewed or offering viewpoints throughout the film.

What is the position of the audience? (Who does the film think it's talking to and why?)

The Production:

- Stylistic elements
- Quality of production
- Camera work
- Use of music
- Integration of elements
- Pace (and changes of pace)
- Emotion and drama
- Psycho-epistemology and sense of life

Studying Classical Liberalism

Consider how this film deals with:

- Free market principles and policies
- The role of government (proper and improper, limits and licence), rule of law, democracy
- Individual rights, private property rights, self-ownership
- Economics, economic laws, economic principles
- Individualism vs collectivism
- Statism, interventionism, welfare state
- The history and influence of ideas and significant thinkers
- Citizenship and activism
- Pursuit of happiness and rational self-interest vs altruism and self-sacrifice
- The role of reason and the mind
- Morality, religion, ethics, philosophy
- Wealth creation Creative thinking, productivity, discovery, invention
- Intellectual ammunition

FiSMoTron -- The Institute for the Study & Advancement of the Film Society Movement, Inc. is

An Associate Member of the *Australian Council of Film Societies*

A Partner of *PovertyCure*

A proud member of *Adult Learners Australia*

"Projecting the power of ideas"