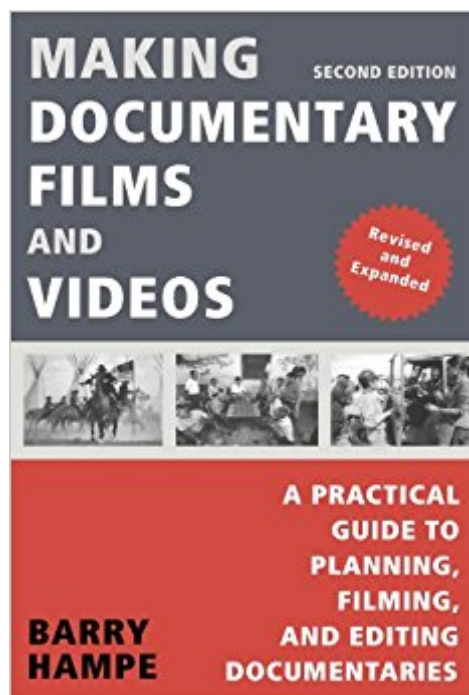




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# Making Documentary Films And Videos: A Practical Guide To Planning, Filming, And Editing Documentaries



## Synopsis

The classic guide to making documentaries, now revised and expanded for today's filmmaker. The second edition of *Making Documentary Films and Videos* fully updates the popular guidebook that has given readers around the world the knowledge and confidence to produce their first documentary film. It traces two main approaches—recording behavior and re-creating past events—and shows you how to be successful at each. Covering all the steps from concept to completion, with chapters on visual evidence; documentary ethics; writing for documentaries; budgeting; assembling a crew; film and sound recording; casting and directing actors and nonactors; and editing for the audience, this book can help you successfully bring to life the documentary you want to make. The second edition includes a discussion of truth, "reality," and honesty in the current filmmaking environment; new advice on how to get started in documentary filmmaking; an expanded section on researching and writing the proposal, treatment, and script; an exhaustive list of resources. "Practical planning advice, the importance of documentary ethics, budgeting and putting together a crew." - The Guardian

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barry Hampe has made more than two hundred documentary films and information videos as director or scriptwriter or both.

One of the strengths of this book is the underlying thought process of the author used in the creation of a documentary. He also highlights the abuse of individuals in the industry cashing in and

neglecting to be honest and factual in their documentary work. This is not an instructional manual on film technique. You will not learn how to use your camera or editing software. But you will learn how to approach the making of a documentary from the producer/creator side of the picture, including the thought process needed to develop everything from the script to a plan for getting your documentary finished and shown. A great addition to a filmmakers library.

I've been involved with film and television for over 20 years. I bought this book after thinking about shooting a documentary. This is a fantastic and informative read. If you are considering making a documentary, even if you're a pro, then buy this book. Such great knowledge.

Started reading the first few chapters...blown away by the writing voice and the ideas he presents. As a filmmaker, I agree with his careful approach. Must read if you want to start making a documentary and see the lens behind how to think through a concept.

looks like a good book

Several reviews on criticize this author for supposedly injecting his personal political views into the book, but I don't see it that way. Hampe is clearly on a crusade, but it's a crusade against what has come to be called 'attack video'. And perhaps it's not so much a crusade, as it is an appeal for a return to long-lost objectivity. It's fashionable to say, these days, that objectivity doesn't exist, and that we are all captive to our points of view. Perhaps we are, but the best documentaries transcend point of view. I have seen great documentaries on controversial subjects where I couldn't tell the documentarian's position on the subject matter. I have seen people leave these screenings arguing both sides of the issue, and both citing evidence from the film. I have seen other great documentaries where the filmmaker presents both sides of a case and states a personal conclusion. In some cases, I agree with the documentarian, and in others I do not. But in every case, I believe a fair shake was given to both sides. I think that's what Hampe tries to teach in this book. And in an era where the documentary form has degenerated into the sort of partisan bickering that has swamped political dialog, he makes a very worthy effort. Let's face it; anybody can shoot an attack piece without a whole lot of effort. How tough is it, really, to stage an ambush interview? It is far more difficult to construct an intelligent documentary with enough visual punch and dramatic structure to engage the viewer and keep them engaged up to the closing credits. The book does a good job teaching the novice filmmaker how to do that. It's not very different from prepping a work of

fiction, but it is hard work--particularly if one aspires to rise above the level of boredom. Hampe does a very good job of laying out a process for doing so, and I have found the book to be highly illuminating. I can recommend it without reservation.

I've been shooting mini-documentaries for the web. This book draws out some insights I hadn't really spent time thinking about before that have changed the way I look at preparing and shooting. Hampe is big on telling the truth in documentaries, which is why he spends a lot of time on the topic, and why he bristles at most of Moore's work and Gore's stuff. Since I, too, am interested in the truth, it didn't bother me that he discusses it. The only reason for 4 stars instead of 5 is that Hampe tends to repeat information a bit too much.

Good book for someone with no experience in film making, I had to do some research. But, I shot a feature documentary that released in 2013 and was distributed on VoD world wide. As a matter of fact, you can find it on .

it is a great book, easy to read, informative, and inspiring, i am currently working on a documentary and it is guiding me through my way here.. a must read

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