Bringing teaching, learning and research to life

SAGE video

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Sociology
Teaching with Documentary Video
Content Type

Documentaries are an engaging format that takes an in-depth perspective on a particular subject. Documentaries expose the student to an aspect of reality that they would not experience from a typical textbook. This format is advantageous for today’s students who are more accustomed to learning from a screen. Documentaries allow for interactive learning and improved retention, comprehension, and critical media literacy.

Changing Families
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/Changing-Families

This Documentary video examines the changing form of today’s family. The video highlights the role of the family in society, the impact of the family on children, and the reality that the traditional nuclear family is transforming into something new and different. It is argued that society should be accepting of these changes in the family and to let go of traditional understandings of what a family should look like.

Suggested Courses or Topics

This Documentary video can be used in any social or behavioral science course where students learn about family dynamics. Course examples might include:

- marriage and family,
- family,
- gender studies, and more.

Classroom Clips

Listed below are a few examples of clips that focus on key concepts:

- This clip explains the impact of living in a family. Clip 3:56 – 4:15.
- This clip identifies the role of the family. Clip 5:01 – 5:30.
- This clip discusses how children develop values from the people with whom they bond. Clip 6:13 – 6:46.
- This clip discusses how the family is transforming. Clip 9:01 – 11:21.

Research Assignment

See below for an example assignment that you might use for students.

In this Documentary, family transformation is discussed as being the result of women entering the labor force. Students should research scholarly text and examine changing family types to compare and contrast with traditional family forms.

Classroom Discussion

Here is an example question which might be used for in-class discussion.

Course instructors can create a video worksheet that contains key concepts, which can be used to facilitate class discussions and as a study guide for quizzes and exams. Instructors should go around the classroom and have students define family to generate a discussion about the variety of definitions of family.