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## Week 2 Forum

### Meet Ken Burns

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#### Meet Ken Burns

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, January 9, 2016, 9:39 AM

Make sure you have read [How Forums are Graded](#). All students should follow those guidelines. After studying the required materials (videos and web linked readings), address and discuss the various questions with your group members **throughout the week**.

DO NOT attempt to answer every question in a single post. In this class, forums are a place for sharing informed comments having analytical discussions. (Forums are NOT a place for students to publicly display full essays.)

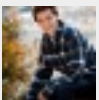
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Meet Ken Burns. This will help keep the discussion organized.

Sum of ratings: –

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#### I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the video

by [Tyler Peckham](#) – Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 7:19 PM

I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the introduction video, he tries to capture as much footage as possible and portray as much of that footage as possible. Burns says in the video "We shoot, not worrying if there's a place in the script and work on a script unafraid if there's pictures or not."(1:45). I also liked that he incorporates real photos from archives and authentic music to really provide the emotional aspect.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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#### Re: I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the video

by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Friday, January 15, 2016, 4:05 PM

Tyler,

I too really liked when Ken Burns talked about filming things or getting stories on certain situations that took place even though they may not fit in, in the end. It makes me feel like he truly loves learning more about the Civil War and all that went on because he is taking the time even though its not guaranteed in the end. I also noticed his background music and how it tends to keep you intrigued in the videos.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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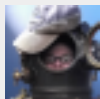
Re: I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the video

by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 12:44 PM

As a musician myself, I can honestly say that the music is my favorite part of the series so far. I really appreciate that Burns and his staff went out of the way to find many songs that were from the period, not just songs that sound like they are from back then. Interestingly enough, however, the title song was written specifically for the film and isn't an actual Civil War tune. Most of the rest, however, are authentic.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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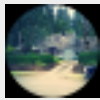
Re: I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the video

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Friday, January 15, 2016, 11:53 PM

His love for his work is really inspiring.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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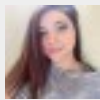
Re: I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the video

by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 7:36 PM

Tyler I really liked what you said about the pictures that Burns shows in the series. I am writing this reply after watching episode one: *The Cause* and I have to say that the photographs in the series had me in awe for many different reasons. I think that these photographs really help with capturing the audiences attention and also with making everything said in the series become more real to them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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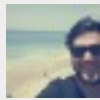
Re: I initially liked Ken Burns' message in the video

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 9:08 PM

I enjoy the real photos and authentic music, puts me in the time the experience happened, Burn's is a creative and gifted film producer and a liable historian.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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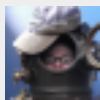
Strong Cause and Effect

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 10:21 PM

I watched The Cause before reading any of the articles (I only read Ch. 8–9 in our book) or watching the Ken Burns Links. I didn’t find myself wondering about who created this “film”. I did however find myself questioning any or some of the bias that could were being portrayed. Even simply through pictures and the types of filming and background music played for the two opposing sides. Having not studied the Civil War except in High School, I found this first installment full of emotion and a lot to take in. Although I will say, after reading the second article on Ken Burns, it did make me think more about what the film was about. Trying to figure out the scope of the film and keep it within that context in my mind.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Strong Cause and Effect

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 5:27 PM

Hi Ryan, I haven't studied the Civil War outside of High School either and it seems to me, that many of the sources that I have been exposed to are heavily biased towards the Union side.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 5:33 PM

Did you attend school in the South, or have you known anyone who has been through the educational system in the deep south? I wonder if the bias is based on the geography of the school system? I too have found the North/Union to always be shown in a better light. I am born and raised here in Oregon, so my exposure to other States is little. Especially when it comes to education.

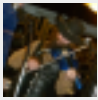
Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Thursday, January 14, 2016, 3:08 PM

No I went to school in Oregon and California, but I have family in Georgia that I visit sometimes. It was a very different atmosphere when I went there. We visited a couple Civil War museums that were pretty interesting. When I try to remember what I saw in the museum, I remember mostly just information about the battles and not much about the causes. There was a really neat life size replica of one of those armored steam boats and we saw the remains of the CSS Chattahoochee.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 12:59 PM

While I don't have a source for the information, I would assume that almost everywhere in America today would see the people who wanted to end slavery as the good guys. I'm pretty sure that it's a universally accepted fact that slavery was a pretty bad thing. Perhaps that's where we get the good guy/bad guy concept. I realize that slavery wasn't the only reason for the war, but it is predominantly understood that it was the main reason. Using that as a basis for a general understanding of the good guys and the bad guys, it's pretty easy to see why the bias would lean towards the north.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 7:53 PM

Jake, I think most people are biased when it comes to the Civil War because we have been taught that slavery is a horrible system that has no place in a country that is built on the concepts of freedom, equality, and liberty. I of course agree with my last statement on slavery and I think most people do too. I did however grow up in south and I have been taught that the Civil War was not fought simply because of slavery. I was taught that even though slavery was one of the reasons that tempers started flaring it was not what caused the Confederates to secede and later fight in the Civil War. I was told that the southern states were upset that the federal government was trying to over step their bounds by ruling on a subject that the South saw as a states issue. In the South's eyes their secession was due to much more than just slavery.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Edith Ortega](#) – Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:00 PM

**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**

Hi Ashley,

I went to school in California and we had History as part of the curriculum until the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. When it came to learning about the Civil War and Slavery, I was lucky to have a teacher who told us, that though the South was painted with a harsh brush, it had its good side as well.

Part of the inhabitants of the southern states (as Episode 1 spoke about) were very much against slavery in every aspect connected to it. The problem was the people who were “pro-slavery” and their more often than not violent ways of letting others know where they stood on the subject.

In 1984, my sophomore year of high-school, I talked with a man who had lived in Georgia, until moving to California. He told me that up until the time he moved away, that if a “black” person tried to enter before a “white” person into any building, that the “black” person and the “white” person could expect retaliation if the white person let the black person proceed before the “proper” person. Another words, the black people had their place and it wasn’t in front of any white person. Not even a white child. Thankfully, this man was of the non-slavery thinking part of the south.

In my opinion, the United States of America, still has some core issues to deal with. But that’s just my opinion like I said.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 

2

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**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Friday, January 15, 2016, 11:59 PM

Thanks, I was trying to think of an eloquent way of addressing the less visible status quo that I observed. It seemed the communities were separate as well. I agree, definitely some issues that need tending to all over the country.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 

1

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**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 11:46 PM

Hi, I agree with the background music and the bias atmosphere he created throughout the film during different periods, also agree with it being a lot to take in, but without reading the two articles before watching the episode I wouldn't have noticed the little mistakes or biased tone, thank you for pointing it out.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 

1

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**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 7:23 AM

Another thing I thought he did a fantastic job at was portraying was the American Spirit, or maybe the "Can Do" attitude that helped found this Country. When Ken talked about the percentage of manufactured good in the south along with the overall population of the South, they started at a disadvantage instantly. What I like about him addressing the percentage and ratio of goods was that the people didn't care. It showed that because they believed in something(whether it was in line with what was healthy for the Nation or not, it was still part of their belief) and it was worth dying for, that is all that mattered. This Spirit and drive I feel is what makes our Country great.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 

2

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**Re: Strong Cause and Effect**  
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 7:50 PM

There is definitely a lot of passion in the American people. It's important to learn from history how that passion can be used to start these wars.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 

1

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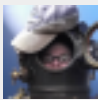
**Confidence within Ken Burn's**  
by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 10:28 PM

I find myself liking Ken Burn’s work, also it is very admirable how much work he puts into these films along with

the passion he has for it. After the first article I still felt as if his work is impressive, but a little questionable due to people stating otherwise like Walkowitz stated “luxuriant on military detail, thin on political context,” meaning that Ken Burn’s focused on the battles themselves rather than the driving force behind them. My concerns grew more within the second article because the accuracy of his films began to seem less respected due to simple mistakes. Like when Preston Brook’s pointed out the inaccuracy of the line “Meanwhile, the Nation’s Chief Executive James Buchanan, did nothing,” when James Buchanan was not president at the time. Little mistakes like incorrect dates were noticed in his work, leading me to question the facts this series may give. My confidence in the series has been shaken by the articles I have recently read, but I am excited to see what Ken Burn’s has in store for me.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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**Re: Confidence within Ken Burn's**

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 1:21 PM

Yes, it's easy to get caught up in Burns' enthusiasm for his work and overlook some of these mistakes. I still think it's a good series, but it's good that we're questioning it's credibility.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Re: Confidence within Ken Burn's**

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 5:41 PM

I like that you enjoyed Ken Burns work. I too am excited to watch more episodes in the series and see how his work changes or stays the same. I really enjoyed the first showing as an entertainment factor as well as education.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Ken Burns web video**

by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 10:01 AM

I have heard Ken Burns' name before this most likely in another history class. I really liked everything that Ken Burns said in the video. The video gave me the impression that he puts a lot of time and effort into producing these historical videos and he seems to be very serious about getting everything right. Something else that gave me confidence was that his videos are shown by PBS because I know PBS to have good educational videos.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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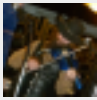
**Re: Ken Burns web video**

by [Tyler Peckham](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 12:00 PM

I too got the impression that he contributes a lot time and effort into his films. He seems to have an abundance of passion for history and wants to tell its story. Although, after reading the articles I began to slowly discredit him and his work. I believe his love for history is still there but could get some factual stuff straight.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Re: Ken Burns web video**

by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 12:50 PM

Of course this is a personal opinion, but I don't feel like the opinions of a few skeptics is enough to discredit Ken Burns' work. While some facts may be slightly off (like the slaves having pikes instead of guns), the general idea is there. The amount of passion he has for his work is enough for me to believe what he has to say, although I am glad we have a book for backup facts.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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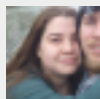
**Re: Ken Burns web video/ Tyler**

by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 7:28 PM

I definitely see where you are coming from when you say that after reading the articles that you began to discredit Burns but I saw something different after reading the articles. At first, like you, I started to discredit Burns and his series *The Civil War* after reading the articles but after I went back and reread some of the thoughts of Professor Robert Toplin I discovered that I agree with the professor when he says, "[W]hat we're all trying to do is reach the public, get them excited about history and make them want to explore and even debate the issues. That clearly is what has happened in the wake of The Civil War.". I remembered that this historical series was first released on PBS for everyday families. I think it is important to remember that this series is not made for historians and like every movie has to leave out a lot of information. This movie reached a million viewers and may have inspired some to pursue the study of history and if it did inspire this than I believe that the series did it's job.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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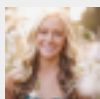
**Did you find yourself "admiring" Ken Burns**

by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 1:37 PM

I did mostly because he is a man doing what he loves to do and is very successful at it. I have watched many of Ken Burns specials on pbs over the years and have always enjoyed them. I did like the message of the video as well. I found it both interesting and endearing that he immerses himself so fully in all aspects of the work he does. After reading the articles i must admit I feel much more critical of Ken burns work. The most prominent thing that stood out to me that made think more critically about Burns work was in the second article. Where it states that John Browns biographer wrote that John brown brought along a wagon load of pikes and tool to the raid. However in the Civil war series by Ken Burns it says he brought a wagon load of guns. I do still have a fairly high confidence in the information we are receiving from this series and I feel like it does well to cover and convey the issues and mindset of a very complex issue and time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**"Admiring" Ken Burns**

by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Friday, January 15, 2016, 3:58 PM

Mychal,

After reading your responses to Ken Burns and seeing what you think of his ways of doing things I completely agree with what you wrote about him leaving things out or sort of switching and changing what is to be believed actually happened, I still trust that most of what we are learning and what we are going to be learning is true. Ken Burns would not be as well known as he is nor would his work be used in a class if it wasn't to be trusted in learning about the civil war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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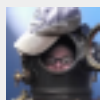
**Re: Did you find yourself "admiring" Ken Burns**

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 5:46 PM

I also like when people do what they love, and when they are successful at it even better! I think often people choose to not do what they love, but do something that pays the bills or gets them by. I think when people find that they are passionate about and pursue it with passion, their success in life can be measured in enjoyment not just dollars. I also agree with keeping a critical ear, helps you not just agree with everything you hear, but make sure what you are hearing is accurate. good points

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Re: Meet Ken Burns**

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 4:45 PM

On Ken Burns' film series: *The Civil War*

I can see why some of these historians critiqued Burns' films so harshly. It appears that a lot of facts and events were omitted from the film in favor of a more entertaining film series. Of course when you are producing historical documents for public television, I feel you can expect there to be at least some bias. That being said, I think it is extremely important for all students of history to think critically of and question the motives of the people that produce the information they receive on any subject.

As for Ken Burns himself, I really appreciate his enthusiasm for his work. I did enjoy the first video in his civil war series, but I will be questioning the accuracy of his facts more as I watch the rest of the series.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 5:30 PM

I had some similar thoughts about the historians critiquing his work pretty harshly. I think of the video as a combination of entertainment while providing education. I think if a person was to try and capture the Civil War in it's entirety and show the many different angles in how it applies to the masses along with keeping the lay person engaged it would be a difficult film to make. I think this first film was very well balanced. I wouldn't mind there being more statistical data, like where he was saying the total population of the Nation, verse the amount of soldiers who died and what that represented. When he talked about a person being born into slavery, and how they would end up having worms and rotten teeth, it really hits you with the severity of the conditions they survived in. Some even said they would rather be dead than be a slave in the south.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Edith Ortega](#) – Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:49 PM

Hi Ryan,

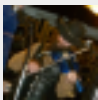
In your post, you talked about the conditions that black people survived and how some of them even said they would rather be dead than a slave in the south.

Well, I know a woman, who worked at the last foster placement I lived in, during my senior year of high-school. No matter how often I tried, I could not get her to just call me by my name...it was always, "Miss Edie" When asked why she didn't address the other girls the way she addressed me, her response was: "Miss Edie is a lady of 'southern' upbringing and I will not disrespect her by being familiar in my addressing her."

That was in 1985, in Oakland, California. And Mrs. Jerry (I believe that's her name) at that time had only been out of the south for about three years. I wasn't used to being treated the way she treated me. I grew up understanding that "the color of one's skin, does not a person make." And the people who taught me that statement are my parents and grandmother. Mother & Grandmother; Oklahoma. Father; Texas.

Let us hope through education to eradicate the images that your last sentence brings to mind.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



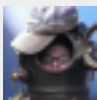
**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Thursday, January 14, 2016, 1:41 PM

Personally, I'm not fully convinced that many of the causes and events were omitted solely for the sake of entertainment. I feel like working within the constraint of a limited length of time for the final production would be more of a reason to leave certain parts of the history out. This is where Burns has to make a big

decision. What parts of the story does he leave out in order to create a show that is the right length? Perhaps he decided that it is a well known fact that the issue of slavery was one of the main causes of the war, and he didn't have time to delve into some of the lesser reasons behind it. We can get a broad overview of the facts and events that occurred and, if we find ourselves interested enough, do some further research on our own.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Thursday, January 14, 2016, 3:23 PM

I agree it isn't the sole reason, but I do believe that it played a part.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Edith Ortega](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 10:13 PM

Hi Jake,

Thanks for pointing out the fact that we have the freedom to do our own research into the Civil War. History can be learn in so many ways.

Thankfully in my opinion, Ken Burns doesn't just want to entertain, he wants us to get involved in how we learn. Like all the great teachers (that I have known throughout school) he finds a way to make the subject jump out and grab our attention. "Get to know me" is the overall feeling I get with a subject taught by an energetic teacher.

Edie O!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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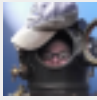


**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Friday, January 15, 2016, 12:22 PM

I also was really struck by Burns enthusiasm and enjoyed the first video. I was very drawn in, I watched the video first and then did the reading and found it kind of a shock at first that there were so many facts and events omitted or changed. However it is a show produced for public television and there for is created with certain bias and sensationalism. I came away from the experience with a much more critical attitude and the information i take in.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 12:12 AM

I think Burns limited his film by not working as closely with other historians like some of the critics said. In the document about the making of the film he said something about having very few people working on the film but all very closely. It seems his small team did a lot of the research themselves. Still a good film series, but I'm glad that our professor in this course has us questioning our info sources.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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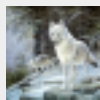


**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 7:53 PM

I think you have a very good point that he limited himself by not including more historians. I can see why as an artist he has a certain group he trusts and enjoys working with but the Civil War is such a broad subject that their are many historians who study it and even specialize in specific battles. I

think it would have added some more factual integrity and would have added more substance to an already good film. I also agree that it's a really cool aspect that we are being encouraged to question what we see and read by the professor who assigned it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1 Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



**Meet Ken Burns**  
by Edith Ortega – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 5:19 PM

Meeting Ken Burns

I didn't find myself "admiring" Ken Burns so much as I found myself being appreciative of what he had accomplished; not only in putting together a historical documentary film, but also of the open mindedness in which he was ready to learn as much as he was ready to teach.

After reading the first article: History on the screen: who speaks for the past? Ken Burns' fans and critics have their say; that is when I started admiring Mr. Burns for "the message he presented in the video clip."

*"One thing that we haven't really said is how much history has been murdered by people who are professionally employed as historians," responded Ken Burns. "[W]hat we were trying to produce is not a piece of academic paper. We were trying to speak to a very large audience ... and excite them and not be the last word or the first word."*<sup>1</sup>

One of the concerns that I have after reading the second article, is that critics of Ken Burns documentary is that they themselves (the critics Michael A. Morrison and Robert E. May) are missing the point of the series; which is not so much the underlining cause of the civil war, but the cost in human lives, dignity and cohesiveness that the civil war brought with itself into the lives of Americans altogether.

*"Although Burns' TV epic may well represent the finest film yet produced about the American Civil War, it has severe limitations as a teaching device. Burns' production probably conveys the pathos and ironies of the Civil War as effectively as it is possible to do on screen or in written narrative. But it is not accurate history. The documentary's narrative text, the glue that binds together Burns' cache of photographs, quotations and music, is so seriously flawed that the credibility of the series is brought into question."*<sup>2</sup>

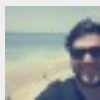
I feel that between the film and the book, I will learn a great deal more about the civil war and what caused it to be a chapter in the history of America. In fact, I have already learned, more about the type of person that Abraham Lincoln was than I did all throughout my years in school. To know how he felt about the Constitution of the United States, and what it meant to him, is something I feel needs to be added to the history lessons starting in middle school (6<sup>th</sup> grade) at the latest. I look forward to the continuing lessons that I will receive about this historical period in this class.

Cited Work Reference

<sup>1</sup>History on the screen: who speaks for the past? Ken Burns' fans and critics have their say. Originally published in Current, May 3, 1993; By Karen Everhart Bedford

<sup>2</sup>Morrison/May; Journal of American Culture, Limitations of Classroom Media: Ken Burns' Civil War Series as a Case Test; pg 39

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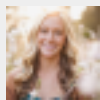


**Re: Meet Ken Burns**  
by Ryan Ritchie – Friday, January 15, 2016, 10:54 PM

You pointed out having already learned a lot. I too have learned much about Abraham Lincoln. Some of my ideas or thought of what and how the Civil War was about have been questioned. What also struck me rather hard was the loyalty to the State they lived in, and that back then you were willing to die for your State! That is one of the many things that stood out to me, was the pride they had for themselves and for what they felt was truly right and just.

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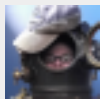


**Ken Burns passion**  
by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 7:36 PM

After watching the first video about Ken Burns, I feel that there is so much to be learned about him as a producer and his love for history. Ken Burns is very passionate about what he does and you can tell even just a few minutes into his video. He mentions that he loves learning in this video. One of my favorite parts of this video is when Ken is talking about finding the right angle for taking his pictures of these historical things, he takes his time in finding what looks perfect and what fits best with what he is talking about. In the second link provided about Burns, he mentions that he has "no superficial demand for balance." He wants people to share their honest opinion when talking about their view. He doesn't want them to have to feel as if they need to contradict their points of view something they don't as strongly believe in. With what I have read and seen so far of Ken Burns work, I love the passion he carries for his job and what he does.

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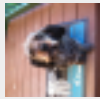


**Re: Ken Burns passion**  
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 7:38 PM

I agree Katelyn. Even though I think that much of the criticism he received was warranted, his love for his work outshines all that. It really is inspiring.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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**Re: Ken Burns passion**  
by [Molly Townley](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 8:51 PM

Hi Katelyn,

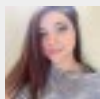
I agree, after the first video it really spikes your interest on Burn's videos. He definitely has passion for what he does, and does a great job portraying it, all while capturing the viewers attention and holding it throughout the whole video.

I really enjoyed reading your post, good luck with the rest of the term!

~Molly

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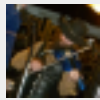


**Re: Ken Burns passion**  
by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 9:04 PM

I agree, it is very apparent that he is passionate about his work. Not rushing, and appreciating his own work makes these videos more enjoyable for the viewer.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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**Why I like Ken Burns**  
by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 10:41 PM

I absolutely like Ken Burns and his approach to his art. I have heard other interviews with him as well and I feel like he approaches his subject matter in an incredibly respectful manner. Even after reading the article, I feel that Burns is doing a fine job of making films that can relay information to a large audience, and he is doing so without compromising the integrity of the message. Leon Litwack and Daniel Walkowitz both had very articulate and specific criticisms regarding not only Burns' work in particular, but the ability of modern media to be able to convey the entire message behind a historical event. Walkowitz even went so far as to find a correlation between the positive reviews for *The Civil War* and the underwriters of the program. Personally, I feel like that is a bit of a stretch. The popularity of this documentary alone should be enough to indicate that it is a

reliable piece of work.

The Civil War is a huge subject, and one that cannot possibly be covered completely by a single documentary. That being said, I am familiar with Ken Burns and his work and I am confident that this particular program will be incredibly effective in giving us a great overview and basic idea of what happened during that time period.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**Re: Why I like Ken Burns**

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 11:48 PM

That is a very good point, the bigger the subject the harder it is to portray it to an audience, I like how you analyzed Ken Burn's, gave me a different perspective.

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**Re: Why I like Ken Burns**

by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 9:39 PM

Jake,

I agree that there is no way the civil war can be covered in one documentary but Ken does a very good job at covering as much as he can into each video that he makes. Between the artwork, music and detailed descriptions of talking about each battle.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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**Re: Meet Ken Burns**

by [Molly Townley](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 4:54 PM

When I registered for this class I was both leery and excited. I love to learn more about my country’s history, but I believe everything must be taken as a grain of salt. What is written and said about history is most often well researched and based off fact, but there is always a chance that it comes from the author’s personal perception of it as well. With that said after watching the video, I began to get a feel for how I was going to perceive and take in the information from this class. I found myself looking forward to the rest of the term more than before, because I felt that maybe Burns’ videos were going to tell only the picture that he knew and not try to fill in the gaps that he didn’t know with how he thought it happened or was. Then the article brought back the initial thought of caution I had when entering the class, but still less so. It definitely didn’t make me question his knowledge or his work, just made me aware of the need to know more about my country’s history.

In the end, after reading the articles, and watching the video I still have the same thought as I did when registering for the class. Learn what I can, and do research on what I question as fact; and look forward to the rest of the videos and term.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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**Re: Meet Ken Burns**

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 7:30 PM

I had a very similar thought process and came to the conclusion that Ken Burns could have had a better movie if he had worked more closely with other historians. But like you I enjoyed the film and look forward to seeing the rest.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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