

FINDING THE IDEA

Many documentaries take years to complete so the first question that the filmmaker has to answer once they have an idea is... 'Do I really want to make this film?' If the answer is yes, then there are a number of other important questions to be addressed.

IS THE IDEA ACHIEVEABLE?

Ideas are cheap but often good ideas come with logistical problems relating to distant locations, timing, availability and access to subjects and legal considerations.

IS ACCESS POSSIBLE?

Documentaries have the power to take the viewer into worlds that are alien and unfamiliar. In order to do this, it is often necessary for the filmmaker to secure filming access to people and locations.

ARE THE CHARACTERS INTERESTING?

Sometimes, even though the idea is good, the characters are not engaging because they are reserved or unwilling to talk on camera.. Good stories are best when interesting, engaging characters tell them.

IS IT HIGH OR LOW BUDGET?

If an idea is likely to have a high budget then the task for the filmmaker in raising funds will become be much harder.