

Democracy can only flourish when the voting public is informed and educated, yet we live in a world where information is being kept from the public by strict copyright laws, a vanishing fourth estate, a slowly corporatized college and university system, and a crumbling public school system. Under these circumstances, written and filmed scholarship by documentary filmmakers and professors is becoming increasingly important. Fair use laws that allow discreet chunks of footage and block quotes, supported legally and morally by the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment, give scholars the room they need to inform the general public and their students about the key issues of these troubled times. Please continue to guarantee access to fair use writings and footage so that documentaries, essays, and books can still be produced and still deliver vital information to a public that is starved for reliable information.

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