Eyes on the Prize – Part 1

Name

Institution

Date

1. **Film’s Name**

The film’s title is Eyes on the Prize Part – 1 Awakenings (1954 – 1956). It represents a section of the American television-series consisting of 14-parts documentary and it regards the Civil-Rights-Movement.

1. **Main point in the film**

The main point depicted in the documentary-series episode is the classic story regarding the civil-rights era which is narrated in the point-of-view of the ordinary people. The blacks’ extra-ordinary acts initiated a movement that transformed the organization of American life, and represented an endeavor whose outcomes can be felt in the present day. The film narrates the story of an American-African teenager, who upon visiting his relatives in Mississippi, commits the crime of whistling at an American white lady. He is later killed, and his death together with the acquittal assistance of his killers, the civil-rights-movement is ignited. The film represents the African-American struggle to end persecutions based on racism, humiliation and segregation by the white people.

1. **P**

The narrator leans on the side of the African-American people, and the film clearly points out how they were able to overcome humiliation by the white people. It highly favours the black people, while criticizing the harsh treatment of these people by the White community. The film clearly narrates the horrifying acts of racism including the blacks being humiliated publicly, murder, segregation among other inhuman treatments. The sufferings and challenges undergone by the forefathers of the black community resulted to movements such as the civil-rights-movement. Such movements created inroads to the prosperity enjoyed by the African-American people of today. Africans were subjected to segregation, whereby they had to use separate washrooms, waiting areas, seats in buses and trains, being murdered among other inhuman acts are cut open in the film. The European society on the other hand, is shown as full of racism and cruel due to the de-humanizing treatment they imposed on the blacks.

1. **I**
* Racism was innovated by the Europeans; the episode confirms that racism was practiced in depth during those times when Africans were being used as slaves in cotton, tobacco and rice plantations. Many years after that, the blacks were still segregated and killed at slightest ‘mistake’ against the whites.
* The African-Americans mostly participated in building and developing America: they provided labor in plantations and in building infrastructure. But this did not make the White people to see them as great and valuable people. They were seen as aliens and regarded as Negros. Any slight mistake could be punishable by death.
* The civil-rights-movement helped improve the way African-American people were viewed, and hence improved their living conditions in America. Africans boycotting the segregated buses led to the court ruling in their favor. Therefore, the movement helped end segregation.

According to my analysis, there were no parts the author made up to substantiate their claims. This is because all details are prefaced with substantial evidence of the happenings at that time.

1. **P**

Various techniques are utilized in this episode to convince the viewers, including the images and clips to depict the humiliation and segregation undergone by the blacks. For instance, the narrations given by black people about what they went through and the death of Emmett Till evoke emotions in the audience. The black and white images used show that they are real images of that time, hence the viewer can easily agree with the contents of the film.

1. **E**

The contents of the film are backed-up with evidence given by elderly African-Americans who had directly witnessed the segregation, murder and humiliations. Their direct confessions offer the film enough value, through justification of the existence of these acts of racism during those times. Additionally, people who led the civil-rights-movement are shown directly addressing the black people to boycott various services, such as segregated buses. Historic professionals with great knowledge on the happenings narrate the ordeals as they happened. Therefore, the film consists of information that is accurate and reliable.

1. **R**

I possess relevant information regarding this topics from books, movies and also online about the African American literature. From these sources have been able to acquire information that aligns itself with the contents of the episode. For example the movie ‘Hidden Figures’ shows the kind of segregation the blacks were subjected to, regardless of their abilities.

1. **Accuracy of Film**

The episode’s content are true and are historically accurate. This is from the way the happenings have been chronologically aligned; 1954 to 1956. It gives a detailed explanation of the time when segregation was very pronounced, the formation of the civil-rights-movement to the freedom enjoyed by the black community today. Additionally, narrations from individuals who witnessed the acts of racism gives the episode more acceptability. The diversity of the sources used help in persuading the viewer on the reliability of the contents.

**References**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud82QzXO7xw&authuser=0>