

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES
“Fine Line”

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AREA 1:

READING & THE STUDY OF TEXTS: FINE LINE

Chapter 1 GENRE

A text can usually be categorized into the general kind or type of text that it is. There are many different genres to appeal to various personal preferences.

Fine Line is a documentary about the media. Documentaries claim to present factual information about their subject matter in a balanced and impartial way. What is particularly interesting about *Fine Line* is that it is the media doing a documentary on itself; to this extent *Fine Line* is an exercise in navel gazing – it is the media reporting on the media.

➤ Genre:

Documentary. *Front Line* is a documentary about journalists reporting on journalism.

1.1 Title

The title of a text can often be revealing – what it tells about itself. ‘Fine Line’ implies that journalists are walking along a fine line in reporting the news and current affairs. Ellen Fanning introduces episode 1 as *Fine Line* being a series of programs about journalist ethics. So the fine line has to do with journalists and ethics. Ethics is the study of morals – what is right and what is wrong – in this case, the professional ethics of the workplace.

➤ What the title seems to tell about the memoir:

The title implies that the series is about journalists and their ethics.

1.2 Audience

This series of programs was prepared for broadcasting by SBS. It was therefore made with the SBS audience in mind.

➤ The audience:

SBS viewers who have an interest in journalism.

1.3 Purpose

A program is made for a particular reason. Often, the purpose can be recognized, especially in relation to the major themes. The reason for making this series was to give an account of how journalists go about their work, the issues that they face in doing it, and to inform the audience accordingly.

- The purpose for presenting the series:

To inform SBS viewers of a particular view of how and why journalists do the work that they do.

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