

Film Title and Release Date: *Slay the Dragon* (2019)

Film Length in Minutes: 104 minutes

Film Genre: Political Documentary on Current Affairs

Reviewer Name and Grade: Jaden R., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 1, 2022

The film *Slay the Dragon* informs the viewer on the latest widest use of gerrymandering to win the seated political view to hold power over individual state control and the majority of people's ability to affect their state and local law. The film first details how gerrymandering and manipulation of power in Flint, Michigan caused water contamination that resulted in harm to several people and the detriment of trust the people of Michigan had for their government. After which the people of Flint decided to petition their government and change the law allowing federal control over water systems in Flint. They first found success in doing so until legislatures favored the government by rewriting the law with the same language giving the same authority to the government. This, in turn, led to a movement against the government's ability to overturn the vote of the people in favor of themselves making up for those frustrated with their voice being unfairly mistreated. This example of the 2014 Flint, Michigan incident is used to explain the current use of gerrymandering to redraw district votes to weaken the effect of the majority voter in each state. The film elaborates on the effect this has as the exploits are notified by the majority and the importance of the trust of the people in the government.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by a title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)? I found this film while browsing Kanopy for interesting movies when the title "Slay the Dragon" caught my attention.

Did the presentation of information keep you interested? I was intrigued to further watch the film to find the "Dragon" lies against the masses of the US. I believe learning more about this topic kept me interested and invested in learning the conclusion.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right? I define the pacing of this film as slow as it takes a while to fully explain the social, political, and economic background of gerrymandering.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

I believe 7 to 12 graders with an interest in politics could get something from this documentary.

Rating:

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch. I found this film personally enjoyable as it kept me hooked on how it would paint the perspective of gerrymandering in today's world. I felt as if the interviews with the different professions give the watcher a rounded view of the entire political landscape behind gerrymandering and finding what "We the People." truly intended.