

## Critical Response Questions for *13<sup>th</sup>* directed by Ava DuVernay

**Directions:** Answer 3 of the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Each response should be about a paragraph in length. Use complete sentences. Be specific and use examples from the film when possible.

1. Why is explaining the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s important to understanding what is going on now regarding race in the United States? What similarities are there between then and now? What are some of the differences? How do you think the #BlackLivesMatter movement today compares to the Civil Rights movement then?
2. What was the “War on Drugs”? How did the “War on Drugs” become a war on communities of color? Why did the “War on Drugs” impact Black and minority communities more than white communities? Do you think that some of these laws and policies are still impacting these communities today? Why or why not?
3. What is ALEC (American Legislative Executive Council)? How does ALEC influence laws in the United States? Did you know that corporations could help introduce laws? Why does it matter that companies can have a hand in making laws? Do you think it is okay for companies to introduce laws? Why or why not? What do you think the role of business *should be* in our government?
4. What is Mass Incarceration? What are some of the issues with the prison system in the United States? How has the prison population changed over the last 50 years? What is a private prison? Do you think it is okay for prisons to be run like businesses, for profit? Why or why not?
5. What do you think of the documentary? Do you agree with it? Why or why not? What are some of the things that are most interesting to you? Do you have any questions? Are there things that you would add or take away or just do differently? You can use this question to write about *anything* from the documentary that you want to discuss/think about more.