**Honors LA 10 - Film Release for *Exit Through the Gift Shop***

Due: Thursday, December 19th at the beginning of class

**What parents/guardians need to know:**

This fascinating documentary features street artists whom some may label as subversive; their work is incredible and dynamic, but some consider them vandals. Also, questions have been raised about the truthfulness of the film's lead subject, though that actually heightens the interest in watching it. Expect some profanity and an examination of a type of art that purposefully crosses a line – thus the film’s intrigue.

**What's the story?**

Thierry Guetta, a former Los Angeles shopkeeper, turns accidental documentary filmmaker and artist in *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. Guetta is an avid videographer, and street artists became his favorite subject. After hobnobbing with the likes of such artists as Swoon and Shepard Fairey, who became famous for his screenprint of Barack Obama, Guetta befriended the famously reclusive street artist Banksy, who gives him the task of attempting to make art himself. Guetta becomes Mr. Brainwash and decides to create a massive show and hype it in the media.

### Following the film, students will be discussing these questions:

* What makes street art so compelling? What do the artists get out of creating it? What do viewers get?
* Is graffiti vandalism or art?
* What about the documentary filmmaker, Thierry, whose work is central to the film? What kind of artist is he?
* What is the value of this oral history?
* Does this documentary make a good story? Why or why not? And how many sides are there to this story?

\_\_\_ I APPROVE my student watching *Exit Through the Gift Shop*

\_\_\_ I DO NOT APPROVE my student watching *Exit Through the Gift Shop*

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Print Student Name Student Signature

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Print Parent/Guardian Name Parent/Guardian Signature

**Note**: If you do not approve of your student watching this film, an alternate assignment will be provided and s/he will work on this assignment in the main office. If you have any concerns about this film, please feel free to contact me.

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