Watching “Hoop Dreams” – For Class Discussion on 3.21.12

Where does popular culture appear in Arthur’s and William’s lives? What kinds of interactions do Arthur and William have with pop cult?

Note instances in which the documentary tries to show the viewer the environments in which the children circulate. What do Arthur and William see in their everyday lives? What do you think the documentarians think about this environment? Do they “tip their hand” at any point in assessing the children’s homes, schools, or neighborhoods?

What about the adults who recruit and coach the two young athletes? How are they represented?

Robin D.G. Kelley argues that Af-Am youth who participate in sports and hip-hop culture are exercising agency. Do you think Arthur and William have agency? Why/why not?