Questions to think about for *Blackfish* (and documentaries in general):

1. What is the principal subject of this documentary? What is its principal purpose? For what position does it argue? Does it critique another position or array of positions? What kind of impact does it seek to achieve with-and upon-its intended audience?
2. Does this documentary film make specific choices about what material is to be recorded in relation to the direct observation by the camera operator/director? If so, what kinds of choices are emphasized or downplayed by the images, screen shots, etc.? What, in short, does the documentary film maker look at, and encourage us to look at-and to see-as most important about the subject of his or her film?
3. Does the documentary film maker stage or compose the scene she or he records (think: is it a re-enactment or the actual footage)? How so? Why-to what end and for what (intended) effect?
4. Does this documentary film combine recorded material with voice-over commentary in which the material directly illustrates what the commentary indicates? If so, how so and to what effect does the film make use of this kind of combination?
5. Does this documentary film include observation, information, reflection, or commentary by witnesses, experts, and other participants in relation to the documentary subject? What kinds of witnesses, experts, and/or other participants does the film maker find most useful, how does she or he use them to get the film's chief points across, and what kind of response does the film maker seek to evoke by using these subjects as she or he does?
6. Does the documentary film maker use any other kinds of illustrative or suggestive material (such as animated or still photographic images, and dramatic reconstructions or reenactments) to get her points across? If so, what, and to what effect?
7. Does the documentary film maker accompany the image with sound, such as music, that does not come strictly from the video (think: background music that was added later)? How does he or she use this sound-to what effect?