THE CITY
DAVID RIKER, USA, 1998

Original Title: La ciudad

Director: David Riker
Script: David Riker
Country: USA
Length: 88 minutes.
Rated: Rated PG for some language.

Executive Producers: Robin Alper, Andrew Hurwitz, Doug Mankoff
Producers: Paul S. Mezey, David Riker
Music: Tony Adzinikolov
Cinematography: Harlan Bosmajian
Editing: David Riker
Sound: Margaret Crimmins, Richard Fleming (II), Paul Hsu & Alex Wolfe II

Questions of analysis:

1. What cultural codes and/or facts and information we need to better understand the film?
2. What is the meaning of the opening scene and how does it relate to the final scene?
3. Whose story is it?
4. Is the city, the film’s main protagonist? Justify your answer.
5. What is the basic conflict? Can you find metaphors of this conflict?
6. How is the city portrayed? Note that New York, the urban space per excellence appears through the biased filter of the director
7. Is the fragmentation of stories, a justification to support the idea that the city is the film’s main protagonist? Expand your answer.
8. Is The City/La ciudad a documentary, or a film.
9. The City/La ciudad narrates one story, or three or four separated stories? Is there narrative unity? Justify your answer.
10. Which of the stories impact you the most? Explain why.
11. Comment on the meaning of the opening and closing scenes. How does it set up and closes the narrative situation.
12. Why was the film released in black and white?
13. Is there a coherent message? What is it?