



Visual Arts Virtual Learning

Basic Photo “Looking Closer” Critique Grades 9-12

May 12th, 2020



Objective/Learning Target:
The student will increase his/her visual literacy by analyzing specific aspects of a provided photo.

Bell Ringer

Why do you think photography can be such a powerful visual medium? Have you ever taken photos with the intent of communicating a message beyond what is simply seen? If so, what was the content of the image? Did you feel the content helped strengthen the image?

If you've never taken a photo with this intention, what message would you like to convey if you were to in the future?



Lesson/Activity

Because there cannot be an expectation that all students collect and edit photos, this lesson gives students the opportunity to look at and analyze pieces that could have been presented in classes at school.

IF you have access to a digital camera (or even phone camera) at home, hopefully the examples shown in the lessons will be a source of inspiration for your own work.

Student Practice

Look at the provided example(s) & answer the following questions.

Additional Resources

photo example(s):

Photographer: Gordon Parks

Title: "Ingrid Bergman at Stromboli, Italy"





Reflection/Evaluation/Check for Understanding:

Composition

1. What objects and/or imagery are you seeing in the work?
2. Is there a main subject or focal point?
3. What are you seeing in the background or negative space areas?
4. What balance are you seeing in the work?
5. What compositional concepts are you seeing? Is one more dominant than others?
6. What type of depth of field is seen?

Color & Value Contrast

1. What colors are you seeing?
2. Do these colors help create a specific color scheme? If so, which one?
3. Describe the overall color intensity. Is it saturated, dull, or a combination of both?
4. If the image is black and white, how has the photographer used value/contrast in the image?
5. Is the image primarily light, dark, or a combination?



Content

1. What do you think is the intended content (message) of the photo?
2. How does the focal point (main subject) relate to the content?
3. How does the arrangement (including size) of objects/imagery relate to the content?
4. What else is happening in the composition that you think adds to the content?
5. Is the color scheme important to conveying the content? Why or why not?
6. How does the saturation (or de-saturation) of the colors relate to the content?
7. How does the perspective (both angle and cropping) affect the content?

Reflection

1. How would you describe the overall mood, vibe, and energy of the photo?
2. In what ways do you feel the image is successful?
3. Overall, do you like or dislike the photo? Please explain why.
4. What, if anything, could you incorporate from this photo into your own work?

Additional Examples of Park's work:









