

Name _____ Date _____

Photo Analysis: A Step-by-Step Guide

Answer the below questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Step 1: Observation

What is the setting?

What objects do you see in the photo?

Which objects are central to the photo?

How would you describe the conditions of those objects?

What people do you see?

What are the people doing?

How would you describe their appearance? (Gender, age, expressions, body language, clothing, etc.)

How would you describe the types of interactions people are having?

Step 2: Interpretation

Where do your eyes go first? Then where? After that? Why do you think this happened?

How would you describe the mood of the photo?

What do you think is the context of the photo? In other words, what circumstances or events are being captured in the photo?

If the photo captures people, who do you think these people are and what are they doing?

Does the photo offer any clues about life in that place or time period?

What new questions does this picture raise for you about that place or time period?

Step 3: Source Evaluation

Who do you think took this photo?

Where is the photographer? Is he or she above, below, or at the same level as the subject of the picture? Is he or she near or far away? What kind of information do you get because of these things?

What kind of information might you get if the photographer were closer up or further away?

What do you think the photographer's purpose is in taking this photo? What were they trying to capture?

What appears to be the relationship of the photographer to the subjects? Are they aware that the picture is being taken?

Is there any evidence that the photographer was trying to make us feel a certain way about the people or places in the photo?

Is there any evidence that the photo was staged? Does this make the photo more or less useful to us?

Is there any evidence that the photo has been altered?

Is there a question you would want to ask the photographer in order to evaluate their point of view?

Step 4: Making Hypotheses

Make three hypotheses about the place or time period of this photo based on your analysis.

If you had to write a caption that expresses in one or two sentences what this photo is about, what would you say?

Name _____ Date _____

Create A Photo Essay

Immigration is a hot topic in many countries. Many Moroccans immigrate to Spain, in much the same way that Mexicans immigrate to the United States.

Research either the border between Morocco and Spain or the border between Mexico and the United States. Reflect on your opinion regarding this border. What would you like others to take away from learning about this same border?

Create a photo essay for the chosen border with this objective in mind.

Each photo essay should include:

- At least 10 photographs about significant events or relationships for the chosen border
- 1 caption for each photograph, identifying the subjects and action, as well as citing the source of the photograph
- 1 5-7 sentence paragraph explaining the theme of the essay as a whole

Like all photo essays, the central theme must be clear throughout the series. Feel free to add titles or accompanying articles to reinforce your view! In the end, you should have a well presented, visually pleasing photo essay that effectively communicates your view to the reader.

Due _____

Photo Essay Rubric

	Exemplary 4 points	Proficient 3 points	Emerging 2 points	Developing 1-0 points
Required number of entries	At least 10 photographs of significant events/relationships depicted.	At least 8 photographs of significant events/relationships depicted.	At least 6 photographs of significant events/relationships depicted.	5 or fewer photographs of significant events/relationships depicted.
Photo captions	All captions reflect the content of their corresponding photos, identifying subjects and action. Writing has very few errors.	At least 8 captions reflect the content of their corresponding photos, identifying subjects and action. Writing has some minor errors.	At least 6 captions reflect the content of their corresponding photos, identifying subjects and action. Writing has some repetitive errors in punctuating quotes or has major errors (run-ons and fragments).	5 or fewer captions identify the subject or action in their photos OR identifications are incomplete. Writing has many minor and major errors.
Presentation	Well crafted and visually pleasing. Photos are carefully sequenced to build emotion and communicate thematically.	Crafted presentation. Photos create emotion and communicate thematically.	Adequate presentation. Photos create emotion and represent subject matter.	Presentation lacks depth. Photos inconsistently create emotion and may veer from subject matter.
Theme	Theme is clear and well-developed throughout the entire photo essay (at least 10 photos).	Theme is clear and well-developed in at least 8 photos.	Theme is clear in 6-7 photos, but it is unclear how the other photos fit.	Theme is clear in 5 or fewer photos.
Paragraph summary	Well written explanation, explains in detail the theme with relevant detailed examples and reasons.	Written explanation, explains the theme with relevant examples and reasons.	Written explanation, explains the theme with minimal reasons or examples.	Minimal explanations, few if any examples of reasons.

Total number of points = _____ / 20

Total x 5 = _____ / 100 (Final Grade)