

Personal History Photographs

“Several of these wonderful portraits...longing to have such a memorial of every Being dear to me in the world. It is not merely the likeness which is precious in such cases – but the association and the sense of nearness involved in the thing...the fact of the very shadow of the person lying there fixed for ever!...I would rather have such a memorial of one I dearly loved, the noblest artist’s work ever produced. I do not say so in respect (or disrespect) to Art, but for Love’s sake. Will you understand? – even if you will not agree?”

- Elizabeth Barrett (poet) 1843

When people are asked what would be the first thing they would grab if their house was on fire (once all loved ones, including pets are safe), the number one answer, hands down, are photographs (or they may say their computer, but then asked what on their computer is most important, it is the photos stored there that are the reason). I would venture to guess that the reason people love photos over all else is because they associate them with memories.

You have been researching famous photographs from history and now it is time to research your own photos and their place in history within your own life. Some of these photos can be taken by you, a family member, or friend, or some other acquaintance (even the stranger you asked to take a photo of your whole family so all could be in the picture). The last assignment obviously needs to be your own photos.

You will select one photo (or a series of photos) that fit into the categories below.

1. **Funniest photo(s)**
2. **Most touching photo(s)** (the one that pulls at your heart strings and may make Mr. Lindroth cry when he sees it and reads what you say).
3. **Best memory photo(s)** – photo(s) that document(s) one or more of your favorite moments in life.

For each of these above topics, simply describe as best you can your feelings and memories associated with the image(s). Why did you choose this/these photo(s)? Why are these moments so important to your own history as a person? It should come from the heart – that’s what’s most important.

4. **The history of your improvement as a photographer** – choose one or two photos from your early career as a photographer (within this class or before this class). Choose one or two photos that you have taken that you would say are the result of you improving yourself as a photographer. Maybe your sense of composition has improved or maybe you have learned editing techniques that have helped improve your photos. Or maybe you now take more interesting photos overall. Whatever you choose, describe specifically what the weaknesses are in the earlier photo(s) and what the strengths are of the improved photo(s).

For each of these photos above, you copy and paste the digital photo into a Word Doc or Google Doc and then write about it below the photo. If you are choosing a photo from a family photo album, photograph it as best you can with your phone and then email the image to yourself upload it to Google Drive so you can access it digitally. **The best light to photograph in is outside in the shade or under cloudy skies.** Don’t photograph it indoors if you can help it.

How long should your writing be? At least a half page, font size between 10-12, double or single spaced.

You will submit these to Google Classroom.