

Photographic Philosophizing

Photographs hold a special place in the human imagination and experience. Photos are our memory keepers both at the personal and collective levels. They can make us cry or laugh and can move a society to create social change. At almost every memorial service, photos accompany the ceremony in some way. And now that so many humans today carry a camera in their pocket, the photograph has become one of most central aspect of our experience.

With that in mind, this assignment is meant to help us reflect on photos and how they impact our lives. We will explore personal photos, historic photos, and photos taken by those who have decided to make photography their profession.

You must write at least one half page (10-12 point font) double spaced about each of these topics. You must include the photos in your document (the photo itself does not count toward the half page of writing). All these topics will be turned in in one document. Please start a new page whenever you begin a new topic. You may use Google Docs or Word. You will turn in the document to Google Classroom.

Here are the topics you must cover:

Personal Photos (2 separate entries): pick your **two** favorite personal photos (half page written for each). You can be the photographer or not. Describe the **who, what, when** and **where** of the photo and **why it is important to you**.

Historic Photo (1 entry): choose a historic photo. For this photo you must include the following:

1. The date (or at least year) it was taken
2. The photographer's name (if available)
3. The importance and significance of the photo in history
4. Why did you choose this photo?
5. Your own thoughts about the image and its significance

You must have at least two research sources for your paper and you must properly cite the source at the end of your paper (MLA format). It is suggested that you use EasyBib.com or some other sourcing citing website. ***If a source is not cited or is not in the proper MLA format, the paper will not be graded.***

Two Famous Photographers (2 separate entries): Choose two famous photographer and select your favorite 3-4 images for each and place them in the document. In your writing for each photo you must include:

1. Brief **biographical information** as it applies to their photography
2. **Why are they famous?** What have they **contributed** to the world in general and/or the world of photography? Why do you like their work?
3. You may include a works cited list, but not required for this entry.

So this equates to **5 different written assignments**, at least half page of writing for each. Below is a student sample of each.

Personal photo by Laura DeRoy



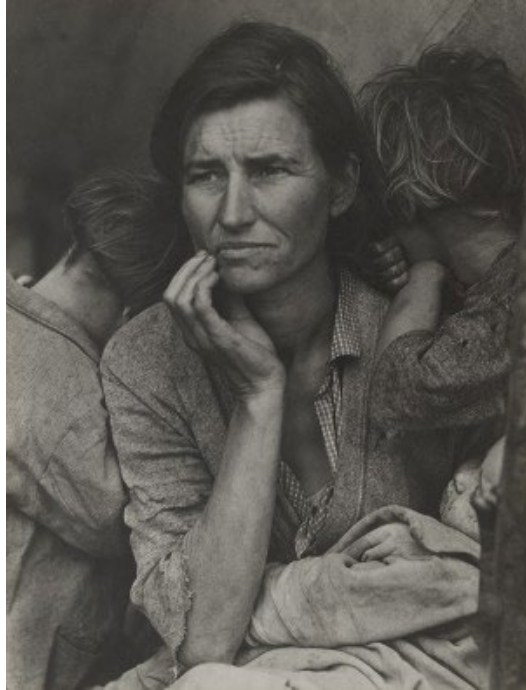
The story of how I got my dog, Maple, begins back in 2012 in Newport Beach. It used to be a family tradition every summer to go down there and stay at my grandma's timeshare. One day while we were there, my aunt was eating this Fage blueberry acai greek yogurt. It looked super good so my sister and I decided to try it. Little did we know, it would be the reason we got our dog.

As soon as we got home from our trip, we were set on buying that yogurt. We first looked at the Village Trader Market near our house, but were disappointed to find that they only carried that brand in strawberry. So off to Trader Joe's we went. Upon pulling into the parking lot, we noticed a sign saying "puppy adoptions" in front of Healthy Pet. For the longest time, my sister and I had been begging for a dog, but my mom always said no, as she had a long-time fear of them. But she told us we could just go look. When we got over there, we looked inside the playpen. All of the other dogs pretty much looked the same- white and fluffy. Except for Maple. She was the only girl left and my sister and I immediately fell in love with her. We even had other people at the adoption telling our mom, "You have to get this dog for your girls."

Later that day, without telling us, my mom called the lady in charge and went over to her house to see if she could handle it. Maple, being the sweetest, most calm dog ever, obviously won over my mom's heart, despite her fear. That night at dinner, my parents told us the best news we'd ever received- we would be getting our dream dog. That is why I chose this photo as my best memory.

The funny thing is, we never ended up going to Trader Joe's.

Historic Photo – by Julianne Braime



This photo was taken in 1936, by Dorothea Lange, at a pea-picking farm in Nipomo, California. This picture is of a mother and two of her children, which reflects the harsh conditions migrant workers faced in farm because of the failure of crops. This photo is significant in history because it raised awareness of the hardships people suffered during the Great Depression in these camps, even though they were intended to reform society and help people. This photo was later published in magazines and newspapers titled “Migrant Mother,” and prompted the government to send food and supplies to people living at this camp, who were previously living in hunger and squalid conditions. While this photo brought political reforms during the Great Depression, the woman in this photo, Florence Owens, wishes the photo had never been taken of her because she felt exploited from it. I chose this photo because the lack of color brings a sad emotion to the photo, displaying the hardships her and her children endured during this time. Also, there is a lot of emotion evident in her face, it is evident she is dirty, and her kids are also suffering because they are burrowing their heads into their mother’s arms. I

like this image because it reflects the some of the many hardships that people in the lower social classes faced during the Great Depression. It is important because it brought awareness to those who didn't experience these hardships first hand, and brought political change.

"Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California." *MoMA*, MoMA Learning,

www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/dorothea-lange-migrant-mother-nipomo-california-1936/.

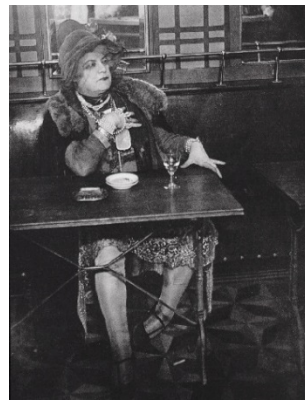
Nix, Elizabeth. "The Fascinating Stories Behind 8 Famous Photos." *History.com*, A&E Television

Networks, 1 July 2014, www.history.com/news/the-fascinating-stories-behind-8-famous-photos.

Famous Photographers

Brassai:

Brassai, born in 1899 in Transylvania, studied art in Budapest and Berlin before discovering his love for photography. In the early 1930's Brassai set out photographing the lively night life in Paris. He found it very difficult to capture images in such dim light, but he came up with a simple solution, he set his camera on a tripod, opened the shutter, and flashed a lightbulb. This helped him incredibly, to capture defined unique portraits, shadows and landscaping in the dark. When the German army invaded France in 1940, Brassai fled south out of the country, but later returned to rescue negatives he had left behind. His works have been featured in many places including the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Joseph Szabo:

Joseph Szabo, an American Photographer born in 1944, studied photography at Pratt Institute and taught photography at a high school in Long Island, New York for over 20 years. His many publications and works depicted scenes of New York teens laying on the beach, kissing, smoking, and many portraits as well. He wanted to capture the essence of the teenage years and what kids do to pass time and the importance of teenage interaction. Szabo's work was even featured in places like the Met (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Yale, and the International Centre of Photography, where he currently teaches.

