

Photography Analysis Guide
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Photograph:	Give a Brief Description of the Literal Details of the Photograph: What is your immediate impression? Who and what do you see? Describe what is happening. Where is the place or location of the image?
Immediate Response:	What catches your eye first? What is your immediate impression of the image?
Accompanying Text: Anchor Meanings	Consider the title or caption of the Photograph. Is there any text available that indicates meanings, context etc.?
Point of View: Camera Position	Where was the camera located? What position is demanded of the viewer? How does this affect image reception?
Sites of Production	How was the image created? Who was the image created for? How does this affect the meanings constructed viewing the image? What was the relationship between image maker and subject? What was the purpose of the photo?
Technological Considerations	Was the image created digitally or on film? How does / did exposure affect image? Was the image manipulated digitally? Was the credibility of the image put in question by technological means?
Sites of Reception	Where are you viewing the image? What context is the image viewed within? Who might be the intended audience of the photo? What are the conventions of viewing?

Gaze: Offer & Demand	Do the subjects look at other subjects or objects or at the viewer? How does this affect your viewing?
Framing: Context for Interpretation	What is used to frame the image? Is anything important left out? How does the frame affect the image's composition?

Consider the Visual Elements of a Photograph:

- **Focus:** what areas appear clearest or sharpest in the photograph?
- **Light:** what areas of the photograph are most highlighted? Are there any shadows? Does the photograph allow you to guess the time of day? Is the light natural or artificial? Harsh or soft? Reflected or direct?
- **Line:** are there objects in the photograph that act as lines? Are they straight, curvy, thin, thick? Do the lines create direction in the photograph?
- **Repetition:** are there any objects, shapes or lines which repeat and create a pattern?
- **Shape:** do you see geometric or organic shapes? What are they?
- **Space:** is there depth to the photograph or does it seem shallow? What creates this appearance? Are there important negative spaces in addition to positive spaces? Is there depth created by spatial illusions?
- **Value:** is there a range of tones from dark to light? Where is the darkest value? Where is the lightest?
- **Balance:** the distribution of visual elements in a photograph. Symmetrical and Asymmetrical. Harmony and coherence in form.
- **Central focus:** the objects(s) which appears most prominently and/or most clearly focused in a photograph.
- **Composition:** the arrangement or structure of the formal elements that make up an image.
- **Contrast:** strong visual differences between light and dark, varying textures, sizes, use of several elements of design to hold the viewer's attention and to guide the viewer's eye through the artwork
- **Vantage Point:** the place from which a photographer takes a photograph.
- **Movement** is the way a viewer's eye is directed to move through a composition, often to areas of emphasis.
- **Emphasis** when the artist contrasts colors, textures, or shapes to direct your viewing towards a particular part of the image.
- **Pattern** is the repetition of a shape, form, or texture across a work of art.
- **Proportion** is created when the sizes of elements in a work of art are combined harmoniously.