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Essay 2

English 1101 (Prof. Scanlan)

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F Trains On Different Time

The two photograph that I taken are called, “Early 7 A.M.” and, “Late 9 A.M.”  The reason I took these two photographs was to compare how the F train is like in the morning, but on different times, and how every morning is different for me. The first photo with crowded train cart was taken on March 27, 2017 from 7 A.M. to 8 A.M. The second photo with an almost empty train cart was taken on March 30, 2017. These two photographs shows how different a train can be during different time which is shown in these two photographs. Also, within these two photographs there will be these three terms presented within it. First one is “Depth of Field”, and the second one is “Frame”, and the third one is “Dominant Impression,” which can be used in describing these two photographs.

The first photograph, “Early 7 A.M.” which was taken on March 27, 2017 from 7 A.M. to 8 A.M. clearly shows, a crowded train cart. Which shows how during an early morning how crowded a train can get and how much limited space there is in only one train cart. Within this photo, it can be seen how not everything is in focus, and some parts in the background aren’t all that clear. For examples, the advertisement sign isn’t focus and the features of those people in the background also is out of focus. This was due to the train’s constant movement which the camera couldn’t focus on to a certain spot, and the limited amount of space I need to work with in order to take this photograph. With the photograph not all that focus it shows the term, “Depth of Field,” within it. The Term, “Frame,” was also shown within it, was when I took the photograph I happened to only take a half of a person’s back into it. This which resulted in a cut in the photo, which is how the term “Frame” was included in the photograph. The term, “Dominant Impression,” was shown in the photograph, when one look at the photo one will feel like this was in a very tight space in order for this photograph to be taken.  John Berger said, “A photographs is a result of the photographer’s decision that it is worth recording that this particular event or this particular object has been seen.”(John Berger, Page 292). This shows why I wanted to take this photograph, to show how the F train condition is like in the early morning.

The second photograph, which was taken on March 30, 2017 from 9 A.M. to 10 A.M, which show a pretty empty Train cart. This is around the time where almost everyone has made it to work so around these time the train is empty, which mean less people make it onto the train. This photograph is also the same with the first photograph where the train is crowded, where the term of “Depth of Field”, “Frame”, and “Dominant Impression” is used. Depth of Field is used in here is from where the photograph isn’t all focus, like details that closer to me are more clearer than those that are farther, like detail in the center of the photograph. The reason why the photograph is blurry is also the same with the first photograph, “Early 7 A.M.” where the train is moving left and right, which makes taking a good photograph much harder. Frame is also used in this photograph just like the first one, but this time the two individuals that are cut within the photo was due to how much the camera can get into the picture. Where when I was taking it, my back was already at the end of the train cart, so there is no more room for me to move, which resulted in a cut in the photograph. “Dominant Impression,” was also shown, but it different from “Early 7 A.M.” cause instead of a very tight feeling this photo make one feel spacious within it. “The minimal message of a photograph may be less simple than we first thought”, stated by John Berger (John Berger, Page 294), which means what I was trying to show was just to show the differences between two similar photographs.

These two photographs have many similarities and differences. The similarities is the setting and composition within the two photo. The differences are the time, space, and feeling within the photograph. The setting is that both photograph are taken on the F train, and the composition is that in both there are people within it. The differences is the time the photograph is taken, the first one is taken in between 7 A.M. and 8 A.M. Also the space use to take the photograph is different as well, one is done in a very crowded space and the other is done in a more spacious space. The feeling is also different, where the first photo makes it feel like it very tight with no room, while the second makes you feel roomy because the train cart is mostly empty.

After, I finish comparing these two photos I can see differences and similarities even when both photo were taken on my way to class. When other are looking at my photos they might have a different feeling than me. What they see and compare might also be different from me, because not everyone will compare the photos in the same way. “The events portrayed are in themselves mysterious or explicable according to the spectator’s knowledge of them prior to his seeing the photographs,” said by John Berger(John Berger, Page 293), meaning what the photo means in what the spectator see in it and not just the one who took it. This is how everyone see the same photograph differently.

                                                            Work cited:

Berger, John. "Understanding a Photograph." *Classic Essays on Photography*, Edited by Alan Trachtenberg, Leete's Island, 1980, PDF, 292-294<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/scanlan-eng1101-sect-d365-spg2015/files/2012/08/John-Berger-UnderstandingaPhotograph.pdf>

Liu, David, “Early 7 A.M.”, March 27, 2017

Liu, David, “Late 9 A.M.”, March 30 2017