

Jonathan Sanchez

Essay 2

English 1101, Prof Scanlan

Spring 2017

One Day You Have It One Day You Don't

One day someone can be walking outside with a hundred Dollar bill in their pocket. The next day someone can be walking outside with the only thing in their pocket is lent. Some people spend their money on clothes, materials, unnecessary stuff, and food. Me out of most people, spend money on food because it brings enjoyment. This is where burgers come along because I enjoy burgers, but not just any burgers, it must be cheese burgers. Who doesn't love cheese burgers when they're hungry.? In this essay, I picked two photos. One of the photos is called "The Struggle is Real" and the other photo is called "Eating Good". I'm going to compare that the two are burgers regardless what's around them.

In the first photo, "The Struggle is Real" there is two sliced pieces of bread with a burger in the middle with melted cheese. Under this delicious homemade burger, there is a paper plate. Sometimes we as people are too lazy to wash dishes; we use paper plates instead. The setting of this meal takes place in my home by just looking at the yellow socks on my feet and the tiles on the floor. There is also a half empty bottle of ketchup. Right next to this ketchup is a crumbled napkin. While looking at this photo, notice how the burger is being held with one hand. When I took this photo I made sure to get as close as possible I included pro filmic since the background was blurred out, while the focus was put on the burger itself. I cropped out the rest of the photo to give it a good frame. I wanted to make the burger look good as it tastes, since this is one of those meals where I'm broke and there's nothing in the house to eat so, I just use whatever is

available. Susan Sontag stated in “On Photography” that “Worth photographing-including, when that is the interest, another person’s pain or misfortune,” (page 536) in other words without a fancy bun, lettuce, onions, pickles, and tomatoes the burger will still look delicious regardless if it doesn’t have the affordable toppings. The burger will make someone hungry and they will want to have one as soon as possible.

In the second photo, “Eating Good” there is way more going on than the first photo. This photo was taken when I had more money in my pocket to go to a restaurant. Looking at the picture, there is a table along with a menu underneath the plate. Around this table there is a chair. This gives an indication that there is more than one person also enjoying a meal. Now, on the table notice how there’s a glass filled with water along with a straw. There is a folded napkin. On top of this napkin there is a fork and a knife. Next to this, is a plate. On this plate, there is fries, pickles, tomatoes, and lettuce. Susan Sontag states in “In Plato’s Cave” that “A photograph passes for incontrovertible proof that a given thing happened,” (page 531) before I didn’t have much to have a full sized meal but in this photo I had it. This is a kind of meal someone buys when they’ve just gotten paid and want to be expensive.

Looking at these two photos, there are some only two similarities. One of these similarities is the napkin. Even though one napkin is folded and the other is crumpled, it is still an important piece in these photos. The main similarity in both photos is the burger. Both burgers have cheese on them. The only differences about the burgers in “The Struggle is Real” and “Eating Good” is that one has two buns with seeds on it and the burger is bigger because it has a burger knife in the middle. John Berger states the same thought in “Understanding Photography” that is “The Immediate relation between what is present and what is absent is particular to each

photograph,” (page 293) if I had a knife in the burger in “The Struggle is Real” it’ll massively increase the similarities.

Cheese burgers will be cheese burgers regardless of the what toppings or side orders are included on the plate. The plate itself says what kind of cheese burger it’s going to be. If it’s on a paper plate, chances are that it’s going to be a low class burger but it’s still a burger. But, if a burger is on a glass plate, it is going to be a high class burger but it’s still a burger. So, if someone is willing to go and get the best burger in town, just realize the prices are up and don’t forget to tip. As for the regular low class burger in town this is just a reality check for what a person is settling for because they didn’t budget correctly.

Work Cited Page

1. Berger, John. *Understanding a Photograph.*, 1970. Print
2. Susan Sontag. "On Photography" Editor, David Rieff.
3. Susan Sontag. "*In Plato's Cave*" Editor, David Rieff.