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Essay 2  
English 1101  
April 3, 2017

### “Wired or Wireless”

The internet is something I use on a daily basis, either it's to research topics that interest me, or play a game during my free time, it is something that has enriched my life. So, I chose these two photos because they are thematically linked to the internet connection, as well as the studium, framing, composition, rule of thirds and punctum. These two photos give me a nostalgic feeling the time when I didn't have a router and I was forced to jerry-rig my modem to my game console that was connected to a VCR, which connected to my television to play online. And, as Susan Sontag wrote in “On Photography” that, “When we are afraid, we shoot. But when we are nostalgic, we take pictures.” And “It is a nostalgic time right now, and photographs actively promote nostalgia.”

The photo “Jurassic Period,” depicts a small, black modem with 3 wires protruding through the back, there is also another wire underneath the horizontal rectangular modem and on the side of the box. The box itself has 5 blue LEDs on it with the words: “Tel 2,” “Tel 1,” “Online,” “US / DS,” and “Power,” with symbols next to them. There is also a stapler in partial view on the right side of the modem, a black wall on the left side, and two books near the back of the box.

The photo “Modern Age,” depicts a black, vertical rectangular shaped router with seven green and blue LEDs lights, as well as, a button with an led labeled “WPS” at the bottom, right below that is a scrap of paper underneath the router. The words “Netgear” are at the top, and two

wires protruding from the back of the router.

The composition between the two photos, “Jurassic period” and “Modern age” are similar to each other in many ways: the colored LEDs, the dominant rectangular shapes, and the protruding wires shown. However, the composition of both photos have some distinct differences as well for example, the textures and the arrangement of objects. The texture of the modem in “Jurassic Period” is bumpier and coarser than that of the router depicted in “Modern Age,” which is smoother and glossy. The arrangement in “Jurassic Period” is closed off in comparison of “Modern Age,” which feels more open due to the lack of objects in the foreground, and the white background.

The framing also plays a part in the different feelings each photo gives off. The modem in “Jurassic Period,” is framed in the center of the photo, similarly to the router in “Modern Age,” however the frame in “Jurassic Period” is clustered with other objects and this furthers the compacted, closed off. The frame “Modern Age,” is relatively empty and generally feels more open. This also plays into the rule of thirds of both photos, “Jurassic Period,” takes up two-thirds of the overall photo being directly in the middle of the photo. “Modern Age,” is also in the dead center of the photo, however because of the vertical shape of the second photo it only takes up one-third of the photo.

It’s just as John Berger wrote in “Understanding a photograph” that, “This is not the case with photography. (Unless we include those absurd studio works in which the photographer arranges every detail before the picture.) Composition in the profound, formative sense of the word cannot enter photography. The formal arrangement of a photograph explains nothing.” I agree with Berger’s claim, the composition, studium, and framing of the two photos I took are irrelevant to me. The most important part of these photos to me is the punctum, the feeling of

nostalgia I get when I see these two photos.

Citations:

Berger, John "Understanding a Photograph." <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/scanlan-eng1101-sect-d365-spg2015/files/2012/08/John-Berger-UnderstandingaPhotograph.pdf>

Sontag, Susan "On Photography." <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/SCANLAN-Eng1101-5377-S2014/files/2012/08/Sontag-On-Photography-2014.pdf>