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Essay #2

Professor Scanlan

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Colors that talk

The average person does not know why photography or images are important. Just like John Berger said in his book “Understanding a Photograph,” “It isolates, preserves and presents a moment taken from a continuum.” Photographs can take you back to a certain place where you had an amazing time or when times were difficult. Images can remind you of your passions and your desires in life. Images convey emotion in various ways. Different elements of an image can make you think differently about that photograph like colors, lighting and angles. These elements of a photograph change your view of an image, or why does that particular image grab your attention.

One of the photos that I will be comparing was taken at Orange Park in the Bronx at around 2:00 pm. The setting of an image is warm and it is fall because of the color of the leaves. This image shows a person hitting off a tee. The pro-filmic event of this image is that the player before hitting off the tee was practicing his swing and his mechanics. This image brings out happy and excited emotions. While the angle isn’t completely straight we can say that this image incorporates the theme of the rule of thirds.

At the bottom of the photo this landscape image shows that it was taken with the camera placed on the ground. In this image the depth of field is very simple to see. The player is in focus compared to the background of the image. In the background you can see the beautiful colors of the trees green and orange. Right below the trees you can see the soccer players running around the turf field. John Berger quoted, “The power of a painting depends upon its internal references” in a chapter of his book called “understanding a Photograph,” this means that the meaning of an images in in its internal references.

The second image takes place in Inwood Park at field 1 in the Manhattan at about 3:00 pm. Most viewer’s stadium will be nature and the sand and the trees, while my stadium is the hitter and his stance. In this image the lighting of this image is very good. The hitter is focused, while the background is blurred out. This photograph is a documentary photo because it is not edited and it has no filters. John Berger’s quote “A photograph is effective when the chosen moment which it records contains a quantum of truth,” backs up the idea the smallest of this in a photograph is still important.

These two images are comparable because their lighting and frame are the same. Both of these images convey that the object or the person that is centered is not the studium. Both of these images also tells us that the person that is in the picture is in motion. But unlike the second image the first image is way more in focus and it has better lighting due to the light from the sun, the position of the player and the angle of the camera. In the first image the photograph is taken angled up from the floor, while the second image was taken standing up.

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Citations:

Berger, John. Understanding a Photograph. Penguin books, 2013