David Guaman

Prof. Scanlan

D394

10/29/2015

Photo Comparison

The idea of going to college seemed scary at first, especially because everyone made it seemed that your life would be consumed by it, however, these two pictures that I have taken on two different Thursdays prove otherwise. “At the Rings” is a picture that I took the day after my friends and I all slept over and planned to hang out the next day. “The Day before the Art Midterm” is picture of my room, on a day I had spent all day studying. Photos are a great way to store memories, after all, Susan Sontag does mention, in *On Photography,* “Photographs will offer indisputable evidence that the trip was made, that the program was carried out, that fun was had” (533-534).Showing how my life is not totally being consumed by college is a relief to me, for that reason I have chosen to compare these two photos. While college is a place where a student cannot be sidetracked as much as in high school, I believe that college does not consume your life entirely.

Many differences between the two photos can be found in their studium. For starters, “At the Rings” takes place outside, at Riverside Park, while “The Day before the Art Midterm” takes place inside, at my room. On the first photo, you can see my two friends, seen my other friend juggling a soccer ball. Behind them there are the rings, someone can tell that someone just used them since most of the rings still seem to be in motion. Further back there is a highway with eleven cars passing by. Behind the highway, the Hudson River and New Jersey is also visible. Lastly, the sky was not completely dark, most likely because nighttime was approaching. Compared to the second photo, there is not much scenery, but there are many significant things to look at. My bed takes up most space in the photograph, even though it is a place for sleep, my backpack and many of my notes where scattered on it. To the left of it, there is my desk, with my laptop and even more class notes that I was using to review for the midterm. Also on my desk, there is my water bottle and desk light that was the only thing giving my room light. To the bottom left of my desk was my dog’s bed, who did not have my dog at the time since he heard someone in the kitchen, and went to see if someone would drop some food for him. Lastly and least importantly, to the left of everything already mentioned, there was my drawer for my clothes. Here I have described two photos that took place in two different location, but on the same day of the week.

Another difference between these two photos is their pro-filmic event. In the case for the first photo, my friends and I have slept over after Orion have arrived from buffalo to visit. Orion used to enjoy being at the rings, so that was one of the things we choose to do for his time here. Minutes before the photo was taken, he has just gone back and forth on the rings about 3 times, feeling tired, he choose to play with the soccer ball we had brought. In the photo, you can see the position the rings are in, which showed that Orion had just been on them. The ball mid air also shows that he was in the process of performing a trick. Comparing to the second picture, the pro-filmic event is a lot less interesting. That whole day when the second picture was taken, all I did was study for that midterm. The notes scattered all over the bed happened because I had been looking for the notes that where on the pictures we were going to be tested on. My laptop was set on one of those pictures, along with the author, name, and date of the painting. Lastly, the chair facing away from the desk only shows the fact that I had moved it in that position when I had get up to take the picture. Overall, these two picture`s pro-filmic events are very different when it comes to the level of interest of the events that took place before the picture was taken.

These two photos are completely different at first glance, but when it comes to their punctum, to me they have a great deal of similarities. Depending on the situation, being with friends can be very calming and relaxing, the time this picture took place, it was one of those times. Studying is very stressful, especially when it`s on a topic you have not studied before. The day the second picture was taken on, the whole day all I did was studying for this test on painters and paintings I had never seen or heard before. With doubts of me not doing a good job on that exam, I choose to take a break, this is when I realized how comfortable the setting of my room was while I was studying. Even though studying in genereal was stressfull, and I was studying on something that I ahd never done before, I couldn’t have asked for a more relaxed setting to be studying on, that had put me on a better, more confident mood. Overall, the mood I associate with both of these pictures is calm and relaxed one, even if the situation doesn’t call for such mood.

While writing this essay, I have come to realise the importance of the terms learned in class, such as punctum, pro-filmic event, and studium, when it comes to understanding a photo better. Using these terms has also allowed me to notice similarities on photos that do not seem to have any connection to each other at first glance. In addition, my understanding of Sontag’s quote “a photograph--any photograph—seems to have a more innocent, and therefore more accurate, relation to visible reality than do others mimetic objects,” has enforced what I have learned by making it clear that photos are effective at capturing a moment, and giving that moment a deeper meaning than it did before. Lastly, I have learned that the impression given to me by other people have gone to college were not very bad. College doesn’t consume one`s life and I have these to phots to prove that. One photo shows that one does have to work hard in college, but also the other photo shows that one`s social life doesn’t completely disappear.

Work Cited

Guaman, David. *At the Rings.* October 15, 2015. JPEG

Guaman, David. *The Day before the Art Midterm.* October 22, 2015. JPEG

Sontag, Susan. “On Photography.” *Essays of the 1960s & 70s.* Ed. David Rieff. New York:

The Library of America, 2013. 531-539. print