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Essay 2 – Final

English1101 (Prof. Scanlan)

November 1, 2017

Working Around the View

People take pictures to remember a certain event, keep it as a memory or even frame it. Back in the day, people wouldn’t usually take numerous amounts of photos. However, since the introduction of DSLR cameras, a huge wave of people started photography as their full-time job, part-time or even a hobby. Nowadays, everyone can take the simplest photos or an eye-grabbing image that engages the viewer on a personal or emotional level; whether they own a professional camera or using a phone. As the person behind the camera we are the ones able to work with what we are trying to capture. There is no specific way of taken a picture, I will show this by describing the pictures I have taken and then compare one another. Even if they're taken differently and are in different spaces they both have a connection.

In the image where the sky is extremely dark and cloudy, we can see a lamp post and birds flying within the image. During golden hour, the sun tends to be softer than when it is high in the sky during the day. Hence, why the sun in the far left is somewhat an orange/yellow color. This leads to the settings of the camera (depth of field) to be changed during this time. For example, the aperture (diameter of the hole through which light enters the camera) is affected by the amount of light that enters the camera. Since the sun is all the way to the left, we see a dark background and mostly everything in the picture is dark as well. In Susan Sontang’s “On Photography” she says, “It hardly matters what activities are photographed so long as photographs get taken and are cherished,” (pg 533). As long as we value the photographs we take, whether it’s from our smartphones, tablets, DSLR’s or any device capable of taking photos, we can appreciate our work and our art because we are content with the results. Art is subjective and people have different opinions on art, which is the reason that people like their work because it satisfies them. Lastly, when I see this image, I immediately think of studium because, it is something that people always see and they like it rather than loving the image. It is not as eye opening as something else that many people can relate. Everyone sees the sky in some time of their day which makes this picture so universal.

The next image was taken in my bedroom as soon as I woke up. You can see the bright blue sky through the shades and out the window. However, you clearly see the darkness that inhabits my room in the morning. If you see closely you can notice the orange sunrise light reflecting on the white shades that are located above the window working its way down. If I were viewing this picture, the word I would describe it with would be punctium. You clearly see the bright blue sky shining through the window; however, it is not enough to illuminate the whole room. I find it ironic how it’s the morning yet half of the room is still dark. In John Berger’s “Understanding a Photograph,” he states, “The good photograph is the well-composed one,” (pg 292). A photographer can compose a well taken photograph with the intent of delaying a message to viewer on purpose. Anyone can take a well-composed image, but it is how the photographer executes it to his viewers, which creates a reaction. Keep in mind that the photographer does it intentionally. Many people have different methods on how to achieve this type of reaction from their viewers.

Having these images side by side, we can compare them. For example, these two images have extremely similar frames. They both have negative spaces within the frame. Images are dark in the majority of the image which makes it harder to see what’s being shown. Another similarity is the angle of the image. Both of these images are taken looking upwards towards the sky in both images. Lastly, these two images have a source of light coming from the left side of the image. It is ironic that these two images have the sun on the same side of the photo. However, the depth of field of the two photos are different. The image where the sky is being shown through the window and the shades, you clearly see how the image is much sharper than the one with the birds flying. In the photo with the birds flying, you see more of the picture than the one with the shades. This is due to the wide-angle feature of the camera or lens. John Berger’s “Understanding a Photograph” states, “I have said that a photograph bears witness to a human choice being exercised,” (pg). What John is saying here is that we are exercising the choice of taking a photograph. We aren’t forced to not take a picture. We have the right to take a picture because it is our choice. We can work around the way we take the picture in order to present our audience what we are trying to show.

The tool to capture a picture is now easy to excess. A professional camera is not always needed. Our phone, tablet or any other device it a great way to capture an imagine we like. Whether it’s a hobby or job, we are able to capture things maybe other people do not see, like the picture of the sky that Sunday afternoon. We are able to have a personal or universal connection with an imagine as well.

(1,024 Words)

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