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Essay 1101

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Geared Up

Photography is a very strong tool that can be used to freeze frame a specific time and place in a bunch of ink or digits. They are very strong tools that is used for everything in this day and age from social media to crime investigations. Photos can “hold” a moment in time, and preserve it. In this essay I played with the before and after effect a photo can have on the moment or perspective of a person.

“Technical Mess”, is a photo with a lot of different electronic components scared around the edge of a curved ended desk and it was taken on 23 Oct. 2017 at 8:35am. The flyer on the blue and black edged desk is a parallax accessory guild that will explain what each item on the desk if for. The flyer itself has a light blue, yellow, and black cover with a small image of a parallax robot on top. There are fourteen small bags that are holding eight seven-inch copper insulated wires. These are the thing’s taking up the majority of the space on the desk as of now and are spread out all over the small edge of the desk. On top of the flyer are 4 packs of wires and two 10k diode and the diodes look like half batteries with two silver wires coming out of the bottom and wrapped in black tape.

In the center of the image is a large white breadboard which is used to make simple circuit and on top of it is the “brain” of the robot to be built, the parallax circuit. It has a many different things soldered onto it from wires, diode, and leds which are really small light bulbs. Next to the breadboard are four leds (light emitting diode), another diode, and a button switch. To the right of the breadboard are four packs of wires and a two-inch speaker chip.

The frame being given off by this photo is a messy workplace that is soon to be fixed in the next photo. A cluttered work space which will be transformed into making a simple robot, which leads us into our next image.

“On the Move” is the second image and it is taken two days after the first image “Technical Mess” and it was taken on 25 Oct. 2017 at 12:23pm. This image was taken in the City Tech library, in the back left of the library on the first floor. The stall is a very small space made of wooden walls and has a small sign asking student to stay quiet and talk silently among each other. Inside the stall we can see a laptop connected to a small robot with two wheels that is to the right of the computer. This is the robot that was put together using the previous images electronic parts.

Currently on the laptop screen we can see google chrome opened to a guild book page on how to use the robot which is called “Boe-Bot”. Also the program called “Basic Stamp” is open and is being used to help make the robot’s motors move. On the screen the, topic that is currently being learned is “For…Next to Control Servo Run Time”. Also the computer is an Acer branded computer.

The frames for both of these images are very different. While the first one has a very disorganized frame due to the cluster of electronic parts, and the second image has a very clean and small space taking frame. The two images are in chronological order because “Technical mess” explains or walked the view through the building blocks that would make up the robot. While “On the Move” shows the outcome of what “Technical mess” turned out to be. These photos can also be documentary photos because nothing is done to them from using filters or effects, they are conveying the real image of what was happening at the exact time.

Susan Sontag said in her essay “On Photography” that “Through photographs, each family constructs a portrait chronicle of itself - a portable kit of images that bears witness to its connectedness.” What Susan is trying to say is that, people take photos to try to keep and cherish a moment and these moments can be anything. Just like for these two images, I took these pictures, which means I am currently holding the memories of someone else's work. These will be important because they show how someone progresses through hard work, just like a photos of family that show generations from years before.

John Berger says in “Understanding a Photograph” that “Paintings and sculptures as we know them are not dying of any stylistic disease, of anything diagnosed by the professionally horrified as cultural decadence; they are dying because, in the world as it is, no work of art can survive and not become a valuable property”. What John is trying to say is that photos are more useful and highly accessible, implying they are more likeable by people. A painting made by someone famous, will never be “someone’s” painting, instead it is hung somewhere. But with a photograph, anyone can have a replica of it and still be happy even if it is not the real thing.

John also explains that “The very principle of photography is that the resulting image is not unique, but on the contrary indefinitely reproducible”. This means that photos don’t really cost much but that is what makes it very different from a painting or sculpture. The fact that anyone can go and “remake” the exact same image again is very good and how much it can be reproduced for everyone. The image is not expensive to the point where no one can have but so easy to reproduce that it makes it highly likeable because everyone can have it unlike a painting hanging in a museum.

These quotes strengthen the fact that photography is very strong tool in this day and age of technology. Everyone can take a picture and it can mean the world to one person and nothing to another. It always depends on the person and the frozen memory that was taken. The photos I have taken show the progression of someone's hard work and that shows that this person has truly become stronger on his goal to becoming an engineer, and they are frozen memories that will always be cherished.

Works Cited

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