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Section D427

Final Draft

                                                       Special Moments

Special moment can be captured through photos and it can be saved for visual memory. A photograph captures a moment or time in reality which can be observed differently by different people but one thing I can say for sure which is that a photo holds a memorable event. Different types of photos can be taken as art photo, Rule of Third, documentary photo and many more; however, my ultimate reasons of taking meaningful photos are dominant impression, which is the main feeling that a photo gives to the observer and decisive moment which is capturing rare moments in the photo. Every time I look at a photo that I captured, I immediately remember the pro-filming event of that photo weather it’s meaningful or not. Therefore, photos have special values to a certain extent. While many might focus on the color which takes up more than half of the photo, I however, think my dominant impression and the decisive moment are relative for this discussion. In this essay, I will explore two different pictures, “The Feeling of Nature,” and “The View” to acknowledge the studium, dominant impression, and decisive moment.

The photo “The Feeling of Nature,” was taken in Roosevelt Island, Manhattan, NY. In the photo there is a side walk which I am standing on, not making eye contact with the camera, in the background there are multiple trees and bushes that can be seen, where almost all of the leaves are filled with the color green, and some yellow, the trees and the bushes are perfectly lined up. There is a red garbage bin, near the center of the photo, also there is sign facing its back near the tree. Moreover, the floor can be seen wet which tells the viewer that, the pro-filmic event was that it was raining prior to the photo being taken I took this picture during my time at Roosevelt Island with my friend, and as we were walking I became amazed by the view and I knew I can’t leave this place without taking few pictures there, especially because of the feeling I was getting which was peace and comfort. Moreover, giving description about this photo relates to what Susan Sontag has claimed in her article, “On Photography,” “photographs will offer indisputable evidence that the trip was made.” (Page 533) My dominant impression of this picture was the feeling of peace and comfort because I was surrounded by nature which consists of trees and rain giving me the feeling of peace, also a place like this reminds me of my own country, Bangladesh, which is surrounded by natural beauty, so it felt like home.

The photo “The View,” was taken in Brooklyn, NY on a sunny day. While this photo is mostly filled with the color blue, there are other things in the photo that makes the photo look beautiful.  It is clear that this photo was taken on a sunny day because the sun is located on the right side of the photo. On the bottom left of the photo there are clouds which looks very artistic, on the top right corner of this photo, two wires can be seen, also the color on the top left of the photo is darker than the middle of the photo, finally the bottom left of the photo has the color black which occurred unintentionally when I took the photo but it adds to the picture and makes it look beautiful. As Sontag said “photographers are always imposing standards on their subjects.” (Page 531) So this photo definitely lives up to certain standard. The decisive moment is very clear because as you can tell, the picture was taken as soon as the sun started to rise and the sun was not completely yellow and the sky had two different shades of blue instead of the color light blue.

Although these two pictures are completely different from each other because of its color and the weather, there is something that both of the photos have in common. Both of these photos share everything that I think of when it comes to nature and they both has a specific color that takes up more than half of the space in the photo. Most importantly, the photos “The Feeling of Nature,” and “The View,” remind me of my country, Bangladesh, because the green trees remind me of the place where I used to live which was also surrounded by green trees which gives me the feeling of peace and comfort, and the decisive moment of the sun as it was raising reminds me of my old times when I used to play with my neighbors on sunny days but those days are over like a blink of an eye. So, these two different photos contain special moments: “The Feeling of Nature” for its dominant impression and “The View” for its decisive moment. That being said, I disagree with John Burger when he mentioned in his article “Understanding a photograph,” on page 291 that “Photographs have little or no property value because they have no rarity value.”

My favorite photo is “The Feeling of Nature” because every time I look at that picture it gives me a sense of peace and comfort because I instantly think of my birthplace compared to the “The View” which doesn’t remind me of my childhood as much as “The Feeling of Nature.” One thing I realized that when I take pictures I don’t think about it that much, I only think about the angle and things that I want in my picture but after going through those pictures I realized that something that is meaningful to me drives me to take those pictures. The moment in which I take pictures and the moment when I go through those pictures definitely have two different feelings.

                                                 Work Cited

Berger, John. “Understanding a Photograph.” *Classic Essays on Photography*, edited by Alan

Trachtenberg. Location: Leete’s Island Books, 1980, P 291.

Sontag, Susan. “On Photography.” *Essays OF The 1960s & 70s*, edited by David Rieff. The

        Library of The Library of America, 2013, PP 531 & 533.