Gianna Moncayo Essay #2 English 101 (Professor Scanlan) October 31, 2016

Photography in New York City

A photograph is taken to verbally describe a moment in time, it is taken for a reason. It is taken to connect with one or other people. Photography can be looked at in an artistic view or documentary view, but there is not only one way to describe a photo, there are terms for example every photo has a dominant expression or a reality effect, every photograph has a studium, a studium shows a photo’s context and general understanding and background, it’s what we can visually see in the photograph. New York City is known for photography worthy views and moments. I will be comparing two photographs, One of the famous Manhattan Bridge and the famous Brooklyn bridge. Part of New York’s fame are the big bridges we have in our city, these bridges connect boroughs, get us to our destination and show New York’s architecture.

The Brooklyn bridge was completed in 1883, it connects the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn by spanning the East River. Both of my pictures were taken on the same day, my first photograph shows a specific part of the Brooklyn bridge; it shows a geometric view of the bridge. This was taken from a bottom up angle and using the rule of thirds effect. You see the cords of the bridge in almost a 3-D effect as the picture goes up you see the cords moving with the viewer’s eyes, the sun is out and hitting the bridge floor from the left side. The blue sky surrounds the bridge and is never ending and in the middle, you see 2 openings that lead you to the end of the bridge.

The Manhattan bridge was completed in 1909, the bridge crosses the East River in New York, connecting Lower Manhattan with Downtown Brooklyn at the Flatbush Avenue Extension. The second photograph is the Manhattan bridge it gives the viewer an artistic view because of its solid blue sky and soft white clouds, towards the bottom of the photo you can see the blue waves in the water indicating it was windy day, also you see something that looks like a little island. The colors of the Manhattan bridge are a light blue and white which correspond the other aspects of the picture bringing it together This picture is taken from a far and taken from the Brooklyn bridge which shows the connection these bridges have towards New York City and eachother.

This picture speaks to me personally because, by my college I have two bridges the famous Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridge both New York tourist’s spots. This picture brings me back to the memory of when I went to go walk the Brooklyn bridge for the first time, it was a good experience, I got to explore my New York even more. Now when I think of bridges I think of my college because I am literally 5 minutes away from both the Manhattan & Brooklyn Bridge its part of my new home.

Author Susan Sontag explains her thoughts and historical information on pictures and photography in her essay *Essays of the 1960s & 70s on Photography*. Susan Sontag views photography as an art she explains how a picture does not have to be taken with camera, but can be drawn, photographs are as much as an interpretation of the world as paintings and drawings are. She states “photographs especially those of people, of distant landscapes & faraway cities of the vanished past feeds into the erotic feelings” referring to the term punctum, A punctum speaks to the viewer in a private way it brings back a personal memory or they are able to relate to the photo.

Author Teju Cole writes an essay about photographer Henri Cartier- Bresson’s achievements and the moment he realized a photograph can really capture a moment in time. He describes photos with more details than usual causing the reader to look more in depth towards a photo. He speaks about the Studium, Punctum, frame, and dominant impression of these photos. The author explains in his essay *Perfect and Unrehearsed* that Cartier Bresson had a way of viewing a photo, and that was “there’s no single right answer, just as there is no photographic formula” here he is saying that there is no “right” way to take a picture there are just reasons and meanings to take it.

Author Joseph Anastasio is a writer and photographer. He takes pictures of New York City graffiti and the subway system. In his essay, he writes about the connections that the subways have to New York Graffiti, how it was used as an art. He writes about his adventures he had throughout New York City with graffiti, and how he incorporated this art into photography. It was a way of expression to him. In his Essay *My Life in Graffiti* he states “each car was a unique blend of colors. Some were painted from one end to the other with artistic “pieces” cloaked with bright letters and mysteries... Each one colored with paint sweat, and life itself” here he explains that photography isn’t only taken but can be drawn, photography is also an art paintings are pictures.

Photography is the art or practice of taking and processing pictures, its taking a device and using it to capture a moment that you can keep forever. A picture can speak to us; it gives us a visual view of a moment in time. By taking two photographs and comparing them it shows how photography is almost like a language it can teach others about different places or things in the world. Through these photographs you are able to see New York’s Architecture.

Work Cited Page

* Juanita But, Mark Noonan, Sean Scanlan *The Place Where We Dwell reading and writing about New York City* Kendall Hunt publishing company, 2014.

Joseph Anastasio*, My Life in Graffiti* page 133, Reaktion Books, 2007.

* Susan Sontag, *Essays of the 1960s & 70s on Photography*, The Library of America, New York, 2013.
* Teju Cole, *Perfect and Unrehearsed*, New York Times, 2015.