

Jessica Barreto
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The Waterfall Rainbow

Photography has always been a very beautiful thing to me. In John Berger's "Understanding a Photograph", he states, "A photograph is a result of the photographers decision that it is worth recording that this particular event or this particular object has been seen"(292). I agree with this quote. Photography is not just something you take a picture of because it is existing or seen. It is something meaningful to you and was worthy of seeing. I personally enjoy taking pictures of nature and it's beauty. There are many things about nature that I cherish for many reasons. I have taken two photos, first one is "The Waterfall", taken while I was upstate in Mine Kill State Park on October 8th, second one is "After the Rain" taken on October 10th, in Long Island City Piers. Both of these photographs are similar because of the dominant impression and they show nature at its finest.

The photograph "The waterfall", is very simple yet meaningful to me being that I love viewing new elements of nature. The photograph was taken while I was in Gilboa, NY, visiting family members. In Susan Sontag's "On Photography", she states, "Memorializing the achievements of individuals considered as members of families is the earliest popular use of photography"(533). I agree with this quote because my parents are very old school and have always taken photos for memories. Ever since I was younger my parents would take photos of beautiful things we have seen. Now that I am older I understand why photography is important, looking back at all the photographs my parents have taken amazes me because, I realize that this

is something I have experienced once in my life. The second photograph “ After the Rain”, was taken on a very rainy day at Long Island City Piers. This photo really caught my attention because of the rainbow. The name of this photo means a lot as well because on this particular day it had been raining nonstop and I wasn't enjoying my day. It wasn't till after I saw this very nice view and my mood changed completely, after the rain there's always a rainbow. Both of these photos have a connection to nature.

In the first photo there is a waterfall surrounded by large rocks. This picture was taken in the mid afternoon so the sun was ready to set. The frame of this picture is interesting because it mainly focuses on the waterfall and the rocks. If you take a better look you can see the light peeking from the top of the rocks which is one of my favorite things about this photo. Also you can see the reflection of the waterfall on the surface of the water. The waterfall also gives off a feeling of relaxation. The dominant impression of this photo is peacefulness. The surroundings in this photo is mainly trees and water which give off a calm mood. This is definitely somewhere I go to enjoy nature and to feel at peace with my surrounding.

Susan Sontag states, “ A photography passes for incontrovertible proof that a given thing happened”(531). I agree with this quote because there are certain things that people don't believe unless they have evidence shown. The second photo was taken around the same time as the first photo so the sun was also setting. The biggest element in this photo is the rainbow because it is something that one does not usually see on an everyday daily life. This picture was taken at this certain frame because at this angle the colors of the rainbow were clearly shown. Just like in the picture of the waterfall, the only spot that was clearly showing the water flowing down was, if the picture was taken in the very front. The dominant impression of this photo inspiration and

happiness. The beautiful colors shown on the rainbow inspires me to think about new ideas and goals to set up for life. These ideas and goals help me not only think about the future, but to also think about the beauty of the nature and how I can help it maintain its beauty.

Overall, photography can be interpreted in many different ways. In order to fully understand a photo you have to comprehend the knowledge of a picture. For example : colors, dominant impression, objects, time, studium, etc. Learning about these terms has really made me understand photography more than I have in the past. Photography speaks to the best and most generous part of our human nature, the desire to share what we find beautiful and interesting with others.

(809 Words)

Works Cited

Berger, John. "Understanding a Photograph." *Classic Essays on Photography*. Ed. Alan Trachtenberg, New Haven: Leete's Island Books, 1980. 291-293. Print.

Sontag, Susan. "On Photography." *Essays of the 1960s & 70s* (2013): 531-539. Print.