

# ENG 1141

## Creative Writing



### *Objectives*

Participate in “Same Image, Different Story?”

Continue discussion about POV

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While there is perhaps a province in which the photograph can tell us nothing more than what we see with our own eyes, there is another in which it proves to us how little our eyes permit us to see.

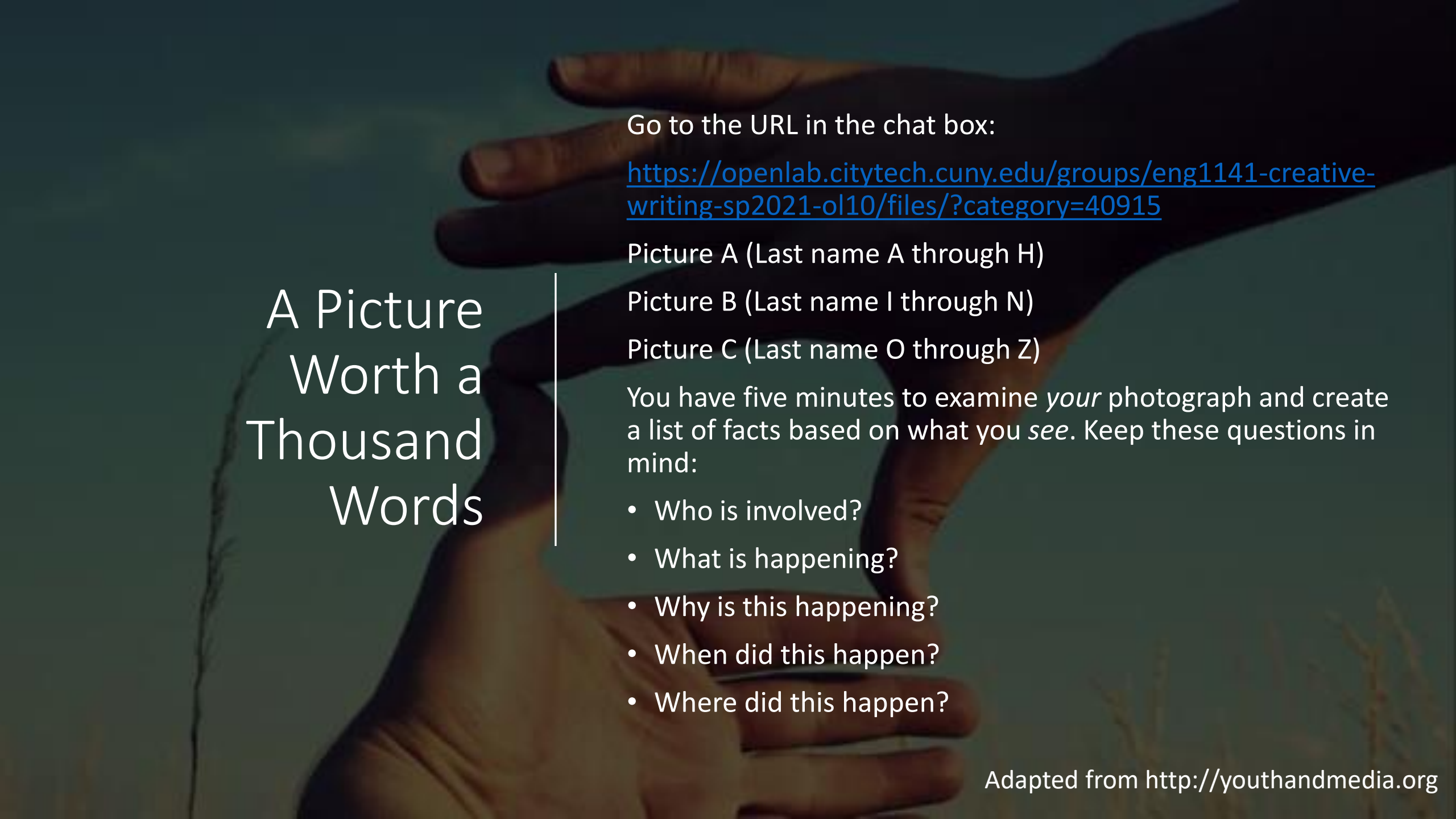
— Dorothea Lange

What's the *first* thing you noticed in this picture? Type it in the chat box.

How does this activity and the quote relate to our discussion about POV?

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The background of the slide features a photograph of several hands of different skin tones reaching out towards the center, symbolizing unity and support. The image is dimmed to allow the text to be the primary focus.

# A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

Go to the URL in the chat box:

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/groups/eng1141-creative-writing-sp2021-ol10/files/?category=40915>

Picture A (Last name A through H)

Picture B (Last name I through N)

Picture C (Last name O through Z)

You have five minutes to examine *your* photograph and create a list of facts based on what you *see*. Keep these questions in mind:

- Who is involved?
- What is happening?
- Why is this happening?
- When did this happen?
- Where did this happen?



Who is involved?  
What is happening?  
Why is this happening?  
When did this happen?  
Where did this happen?



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Who is involved?  
What is happening?  
Why is this happening?  
When did this happen?  
Where did this happen?



How many different points of view did we just discuss?



Now, what do you think happened?

Has your interpretation of your section of the picture changed, now that you're seeing the whole picture?

Why or why not?

What does this tell us about POV?





## Point of View

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- Whose POV was being shared in “The First Day”?
- How might the story have changed had it been first person, but told through the mother’s POV?
- Specifically, what would we know right away that we don’t know when it’s being told through the daughter’s eyes?
- How might the story have changed had it been in intimate third person or journalistic third person?



## Point of View

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- Whose POV was being shared in “The Wife’s Story”?
- How might the story have changed had it been first person, but told through the husband’s POV?
- Specifically, what would we know right away that we don’t know with the wife’s POV?
- How might the story have changed had it been in intimate third person or journalistic third person?
- How is this story similar/different from “The First Day”?



## Help to move from Real Life into Fiction

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- What is the real incident you're considering using?
- Who's involved?
- Create a list of characters and think about the elements of characterization.
- What kind of third person will you use? Intimate or journalistic? Why?



## Help to move from Real Life into Fiction

- Consider Journal #4 or the story you're working on for this class.
- What's the original setting? Put the name of the place (Brooklyn, New Jersey) and where (house, bus stop, etc.) in the chat box.
- What are the rules of this setting? (For example, if it's Brooklyn, where do the people live, how do they get around, what are their ages, etc.?)
- Now, think of a place that's completely opposite. (Brooklyn > rural Montana) What are the rules there?
- See how the story will change if you just change the setting? If I'm writing about an argument at a bus stop in Brooklyn but alter the setting to rural Montana—things will have to change!
- Setting helps us with POV, because the experiences of the characters are going to be different.



# Homework

- Write short story based on a real event. Fictionalize it as much as you want. You can set it in any time period or setting. The only rule is to use third person (either the intimate third person or the journalistic third person), but NOT first person. **The first draft is due by March 25!**
- A paragraph critique of Le Guin's work. What did you enjoy? What questions/suggestions do you have for the author? Title it **Full Name, Le Guin Critique**. Post it under **Discussions**. Due by 11:59 PM on March 18 (today).

