

# The Power of Photography: VISUAL ANALYSIS

**DAVID GRIFFIN'S  
"HOW PHOTOGRAPHY  
CONNECTS US" **



DeCesare, Donna. "Shadow Dreams and New Youth Visions." n.d. Photograph. *Fifty Crows*. n.p. Web. 17 Nov. 2015.



## The Power of Photography to . . .

### Context or Backstory

What story does it tell?  
Is there a theme that runs through the picture?  
Any symbolism?

### Organize the overall paper:

Intro Para: Start w/hook & end with thesis.  
Logically organized body paragraphs, each w/clear topic sent that directly connects to thesis.  
Conclusion Para w/thesis & final reflection

### Literal Description

subject(s) & objects  
setting & frame (out?)  
fore(& back)grounds  
most>least powerful images  
spatial description  
lighting, camera angle  
colors & textures

### In what way(s) does the photo affect viewers?

Emotions? How? Why?  
Does it personalize some social issue? In what ways?  
Why did the photographer choose *this specific* shot?

### My Reflection

How is my life or experience similar or different?  
How do I relate to/identify with the subject matter?  
(Perhaps save this for your conclusion paragraph?)

**Read the model essay(s).**



 **Great Vis Analysis**  
Lesson <10 mins.









repetition



Major components of your Visual Analysis Essay:

1. Detailed Description
2. Context
3. Advocacy or Message it evokes
4. Reflection/emotional impact/how you or others can relate

Look at your umbrella!

pulitzer.org/archives  
National Geographic website





## Peer Review Questions:

First, read your partner's paper. After you have read it, answer the following:

1. What is the paper's biggest **strength**?

2. **Weakness**?

3. What do you **like most** about the paper?

4. To what extent is the **organization** effective (or not)?

5. How is the author's **use of details**?

6. Comment on the **thesis**: is it effective & supported by evidence?

7. Is the subject **focused**? If it isn't, where does the paper **wander**?

8. **After reading this paper and completing the rubric, how might you revise your own paper? Respond to this question on the back of your rubric.**

Respond to these questions on the back of the paper you are assessing.

## Sample thesis statements

Through the lens of his camera, photographer Heinrich Vladimir has captured a single moment of joy in an otherwise tragic setting in the slums of Bangladesh.

The haunting portrait of a child soldier taken by National Geographic photographer Han Solo exposes the horrors occurring in the Sudan.

Photographer Jan Bubbles reveals true Americana in her rustic photograph of a Montana ranch house.

## Work Cited <sup>or create a descriptive title</sup>

PhotographerLast, PhotographerFirstName. "PhotoTitle."

~~If It's From an Album that Title.~~ ContainerTitle, Posted

Date. ~~Container2,~~ <sup>URL!</sup> Location.

2014 or  
16 July 2013

Larger  
"container"  
if there is  
one.

Title of Website  
If it's a smaller,  
titled part of a  
larger Website Organization,  
use that.

URL

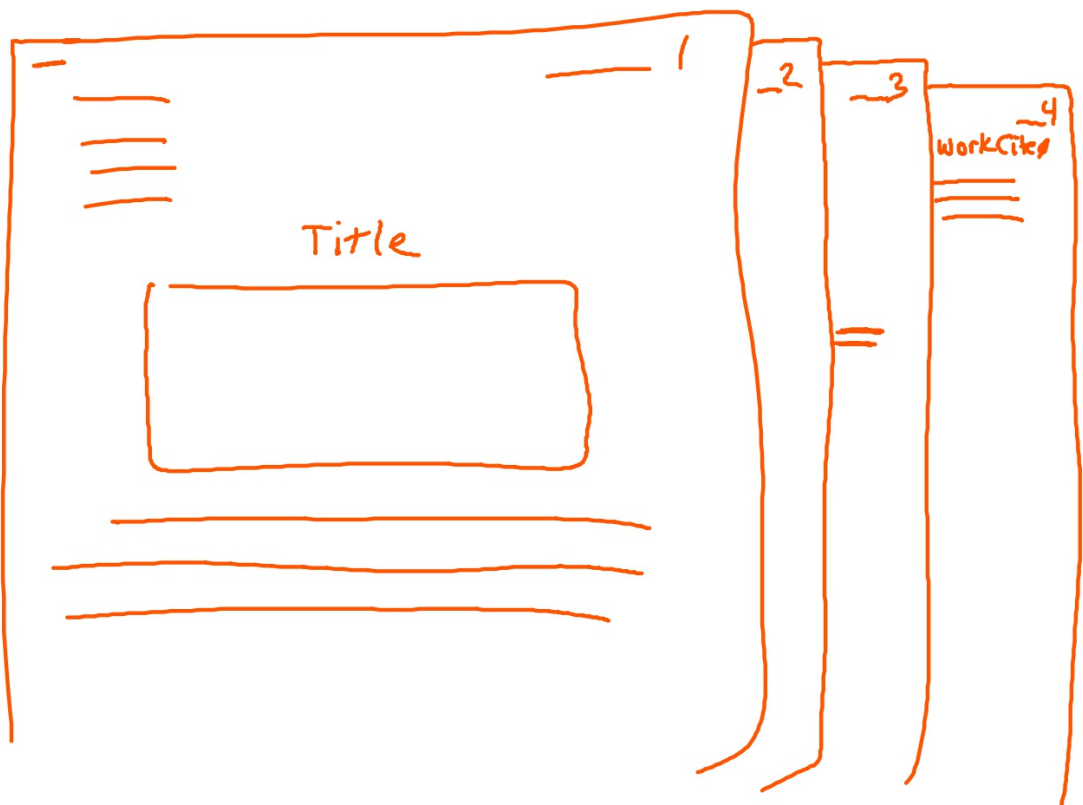
	Outstanding College-Level Writing: Polished, original, logical, clear thought-provoking. Excellent writing.	Average College-Level Writing: Reasonably clear central idea, adequate support. May lack quality of thought, development, and style.	Substandard College-Level Writing: Unacceptable, does not meet all requirements of the assignment, shows little or no revision.
Development	Intro para has a creative hook, includes basic background info in a logical order. Shows clarity of thought in stating a well-developed, logical thesis. Conclusion para begins w/reimagined thesis, reiterates key points in a new way, and leaves a final impression: insightful thought or two of the overall theme, perhaps within a larger context, answering the "So what?" question. Ideas are <u>fresh</u> and unique.	Intro paragraph lacks a creative hook, may omit important background info, ends with a thesis that is general or vague. Conclusion begins with a thesis, simply repeats key points, and ends in a simplistic or clichéd manner without much insight. Not much beyond the expected, but not needed as assigned, for the most part.	No hook or starts with a thesis. Does not include enough basic background for the reader to understand the essay topic. May contain "body para" info. Thesis may be missing or far too general. Conclusion omits thesis or key points, introduces out-of-place new material, no real insight. Conclusion paragraph might be missing.
Organization	Overall essay organization is crystal clear. Every paragraph ties into thesis. Each paragraph is broken down by single topic, claim(s), detailed support, and explanations. Transitions are included to guide reader from point to point.	Purposeful organization is somewhat evident. Body paragraphs link to thesis in some way. The order of the body paras may be unclear. Paragraphs may meander off topic or a few claims lack solid support. Few transitions.	Difficult to follow, ineffective organization especially within body paragraphs, some repetitive ideas, paragraphs wander off topic, claims lack support.
Style/Tone, Syntax, Diction	Maintains an academic style and formal tone, sentence patterns vary and flow easily from one to the next; word choices are college-level; topical, detailed vocabulary is used.	Attempts at academic style but may come across as mechanical or casual. Sentences vary somewhat but may not flow.	Casual style, lacks formality. Sentences are repetitive, choppy, or stringy. Diction is below college-level with little topical vocabulary.
Conventions	Conventions are correct with a variety of correctly used punctuation. Entire essay is polished and perfectly edited. MLA format is spot-on.	Conventions are mostly correct. Could have used a final edit but errors do not interfere with understanding. A few errors in MLA format.	Clearly unedited. No variety in punctuation. Grammatical errors. Completely unacceptable as a final copy. Many errors in MLA formatting.
Assignment Specifications	Compelling photograph, vivid description with many art/photography concepts, intriguing critique, and captivating reflection. Fulfills every requirement and more. Demonstrates originality and readers feel like they have learned something.	Adequate photo, solid description with a few art/photography concepts, middling critique, and average reflection. Fulfills almost all requirements. Nothing out of the ordinary.	Uninspired photo, very few if any art/photography concepts, may have omitted some assignment requirements. Substandard or inferior commentary.

ical  
cab?

it words"  
??

MLA  
format  
grammar  
mechanics

Beyond The Obvious





~~get/got~~ Topic Sentence(s) ? ~~There is/are~~  
~~It is/was~~

"to be" verbs — 2 per ¶  
NO 2 sents start w/ same word →  
NTSSWTSW per ¶

is am  
are was  
were be being

been became

How is the ¶ organized?

← TOPICS →

● major point  
— support  
● Major point  
— support