

## ANALYZING PHOTOGRAPHY

Name:

Date:

Course:

### **Subject:**

What is the subject of this photograph? Is it a person, place, event, object or idea?  
Was the subject posed, arranged, or caught unawares for the camera?  
Does the subject symbolize something more than itself?

### **Frame:**

How is the subject framed? How is the subject isolated from his/her/its surroundings?  
What camera angle and shot distance are used? What does the framing suggest the viewer should focus on? Does the framing create new meaning between objects or people in the image? Does the framing create any comparisons, contrasts or tensions within the image? What effect does the photographer's point of view have on the picture's meaning? If there are people in the photographs, what are they doing? How are they dressed? How do they look? Do they convey any emotion or feeling?

### **Light:**

Lighting can contribute to the mood and dramatic effect of an image, as well as make it visible in the first place. How does the photograph make use of light? Did the photographer use natural, available, or artificial light? Is the image well or poorly lit? Does the photographer's use of light or shadow create or add meaning in the image? Does lighting help achieve the overall effect in the photograph? Why might the photographer have used light or shadow in a particular way?

### **Depth of Field:**

Depth of field refers to the distance or range at which objects appear in sharp focus in the frame. When depth of field is small, only some elements of the frame are in focus (foreground, middle ground or background). When depth of field is large, all elements in the frame will be in focus. How does the photographer use depth of field? What is in focus in the frame? What is out of focus? What details are emphasized through focus?

### **Context:**

What year was the photograph taken?  
Who took the photograph?  
What was the context or intended use of the photograph?  
Has the photograph been altered for presentation? Has anything been added or removed from the image? Does the image have a caption? Is it part of a sequence or collage?

The Teaching Educators about Media (TEAM) Project, housed in UT's Radio-TV-Film Department, designed these lesson plans and resources. Project Director: Laura Stein, Ph.D. <http://utopia.utexas.edu/explore/team/>