

How to Analyse a Photograph

As a class group, in pairs or individually, choose a photograph from the exhibition and analyse it.



Remember! A photograph is a 2-D image of a 3-D scene. Analysing a photograph looks at different characteristics compared to how we analyse other 2-D artwork.

Exhibition: _____

Artist: _____ Artwork title: _____

Date created: _____ Medium: _____



SUBJECT

1. Describe the photograph's **subject matter**, is it a: Person, Place, Object, Thing or Idea? What do you see?

2. Does the image look **realistic** or **abstract**? Has there been any manipulation of the scene using camera techniques such as lighting, movement etc. Explain your answer?

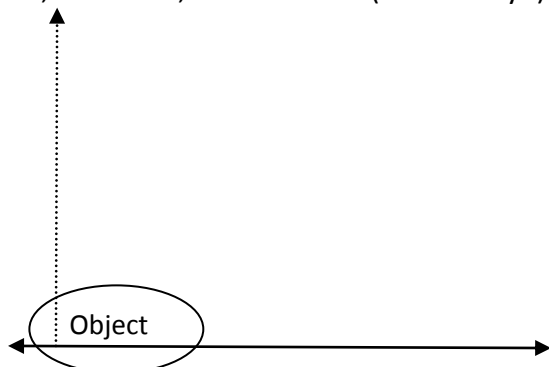
CAMERA SHOTS & ANGLES

The **point of view** determines what angle the photo was taken from therefore it alters **perspective**. Was the photo taken at eye level, from a bird's eye view, from ground level, from the side etc.



3. Draw the angle with your ruler at which you think the photographer took this picture.

Label it: Top View (Bird's Eye), High level, Eye level, Low level, Bottom View (Worm's eye).



4. Tick which camera shot has been used?

- Extreme Close up (Macro)
- Close up/ Short
- Medium
- Long
- Extreme Long
- Wide angle.

5. Describe the use of **Depth of field** (how blurry or sharp the **foreground or background** is) the photographer has used. Explain what effect it has on the photograph.

6. Has the photograph been **framed** by using the camera or the objects in the scene? For example, has the photograph been cropped by using a close-up shot, or has an archway been used to focus on the subject matter?

COMPOSITION

7. Draw in the box the **composition's shape** used in the photograph.

For example, are the objects in the composition in the shape of e.g. a triangle, a circle, a square, a rectangle, an "S", a "V", an "L".

Composition Shape:

Shade in negative space:

8. Draw in the box the outline of objects in the photograph. Shade in the **negative spaces**.

9. How is the photograph **balanced**? (Circle) Is it **symmetrical** or **asymmetrical**?

LIGHTING

10. (Circle) Is the lighting **natural** or **artificial**?

11. Draw in the box the photograph's **focal point** and an arrow showing where the **lighting source** is coming from? (Is it front-lit, side-lit, back-lit, from above down or from below up?)

Lighting Source:

12. (Circle) Is the photograph **overexposed** (very bright photo) or **underexposed** (very dark photo) or **equal** in **contrast** of light and dark areas?

13. Describe the **mood** of the photograph using 5 adjectives. For example; is the photograph dark and sombre, or bright and happy etc.

Name:

Grade:

UPPER PRIMARY/ LOWER SECONDARY WORKSHEET

EXTENSION QUESTIONS

CONTEXT

14. Describe any **social, political, historical, or religious** ideas represented in this artwork.

15. What do you think the artist was trying to **communicate**? What is the **message or meaning** behind this photograph?

16. Overall, do you think the artist was successful or not in communicating his message? Why/Why not? What could have been done differently?
