## Microtheme 5:  Visual Analysis

**Description:**  500-word analysis of a photograph, plus MLA-format Works Cited page
**Sources:**  1 photograph (from the Levittown set)
  1 RAW essay of your choosing
**Total Points:**  50
**Due Date:**  **Monday 4/2**

## The Assignment

This microtheme has three tasks: **1)** Perform a visual analysis of your photograph. (This should be about ¾ of the microtheme.) **2)** Add a voice to this conversation by bringing in a key concept from a RAW essay that complicates the representation in the photograph. **3)** Finally, use this complication to generate an open-ended and research-worthy Inquiry Question.

## Strategies

### Prewriting

- Pick a photograph from the set and use the Tools for Analyzing Photographs, as well as "The Method," "Notice and Focus," and "10 on 1" in WA to identify and rank relevant details, patterns, and design choices in the photograph. How does it represent its moment, subject, or cultural phenomenon? What do the major cultural issues seem to be? What assumptions can you uncover?

### Writing

- Analyze the significance these details and patterns and use this analysis to generate a claim about how the image represents its moment, figure, or cultural phenomenon in interesting, strange, or revealing ways. This section should take up about ¾ of the microtheme.

- In the final (short) section of the microtheme, bring in a key claim or concept from one of our RAW essays that raises an interesting complication for the claim you just made. To do this, you will need to (quickly!) summarize the claim or concept and explain exactly how it complicates your own claim.

- End with your Inquiry Question. The best inquiry questions are both specific and open-ended. (That is, if you can answer an IQ with "yes" or "no," it's not open-ended enough.) You don't need to answer the Inquiry Question in this microtheme. Instead, you will use it to conduct research (in Microtheme 6) and as the starting point for an extended argument (in Essay 3).

## Criteria for Evaluation

1. Does the microtheme use the tools of visual analysis to develop a claim about how the photograph represents a contemporary or historical moment, significant figure, or cultural phenomenon?
2. Does it introduce a productive complicating concept or claim from a RAW essay?
3. Does it generate a research-worthy Inquiry Question?
4. Does it use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and MLA citation?