

Selecting a Photograph for Microtheme 6 and Essay 3

Use the following guide to help you find and select an interesting and analysis-worthy photograph for our last two assignments. Though you will only write about one photograph in these assignments, you should initially find at least two or three potential photos. Use our analytical tools and freewriting to select the photograph with the most potential to generate an interesting, original, and non-obvious thesis.

Microtheme 6 Photograph Criteria

To qualify as analysis-worthy and to ensure that it receives full credit on Microtheme 6, the photograph you choose for this assignment (and that you will analyze in Essay 3) must meet **both** of the following criteria. Place a check in the line next to each analytical and formal feature as you find them.

1. It must feature at least two of the following ANALYTICAL features:

- a. A significant **REPETITION** _____
- b. A significant **STRAND** _____
- c. A significant **BINARY** or **STRUCTURING OPPOSITION** _____
- d. A significant **ANOMALY** _____
- e. A significant **ASSUMPTION** (either cultural or authorial) _____
- f. A significant **IMPLICIT BELIEF** or **CLAIM** _____

2. It must contain at least three of the following FORMAL features:

- a. A significant **VECTOR** _____
- b. A significant **FOCAL POINT** _____
- c. Significant use of **COLOR, CONTRAST, or LIGHTING** _____
- d. A significant **PERSPECTIVE** (camera angle) _____
- e. Significant use of **SOCIAL DISTANCE** _____
- f. Significant use of **BALANCE, NEGATIVE/POSITIVE SPACE, or LAYOUT** _____
- g. Significant use of **FRAMING** _____

N.B.: A detail is **significant** only if it is one that you can use to make a meaningful, non-obvious claim about how the photograph is representing an issue.

Recommended Databases for Researching Photographs

The IU Libraries has recommended the following databases, and because the photographs in these databases are far more likely to be analysis-worthy than a photo from Google Images, you are strongly encouraged to use them to select your photograph.

1. **Library of Congress photo collections:** <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>
2. **AP Photo Archive:**
<http://www.libraries.iub.edu/scripts/countResources.php?resourceId=22>
3. **Ebsco images:**
<http://www.libraries.iub.edu/scripts/countResources.php?resourceId=1307914>
(mostly newspaper images)
4. **Life magazine photo archive:** <http://www.life.com/>
5. **Time magazine photo essays:** <http://www.time.com/time/photoessays/>