

Conceptual Portraiture: Visual Analysis Essay

Write a minimum of five paragraphs visually analyzing your conceptual portrait triptych. (1 opening, 1 paragraph per photograph & a closing paragraph).

The paragraphs pertaining to your individual photos should demonstrate your understanding of the relationship between your intentionality (content/ideas) and your technical decisions (form/composition).

Start with concise descriptions using the technical language that we have learned throughout the semester. Remember, slowing down to really describe your photographs is difficult. Hopefully you have your initial writing as a guide to use, as it is the reason why I suggested you do some initial writing and planning.

Assume nothing – walk the reader of the essay through your photos using language. I have as of yet to read a description in which I thought the writer over-described their image. (Consider it like this: you are describing your images a person without sight...).

After you have thoroughly described your image please write about the meaning of your photos and how the technical decisions you addressed above reinforce your ideas. This should be a considered statement about your intentionality and overall goals for the project.

Your closing paragraph should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your final project. Use these prompts if you get stuck:

- Did you think it was a successful project? Why or why not? Give specific details – do not generalize.
- What was the strongest aspect of your final triptych?
- Did you experience any “lucky accidents”?
- What was the weakest aspect of your final images?
- If you could go back and redo some aspect of your project, what would it be?

TECHNICAL & CONCEPTUAL TOPICS YOU MUST ADDRESS:

- Composition: Rule of Thirds (did you use), Focal Point, etc.
- What is going on in the Foreground, Middle ground and Background
- The Design Elements – Line, Color, Shape, Texture and Pattern, Value & Space
- Shutter Speed (slow or fast)
- Depth of Field (deep or shallow)
- Perspective of the Photographer (Vantage point: birds eye view, worms eye view, close-up, long shot, side view)
- Light and the Quality of Light
- Subject – Overall commentary about the subject you chose, your relationship to the subject, etc.

A FINAL REMINDER:

Your essay should be both **printed out** and on a **disk (or emailed)** and labeled with your name. In addition, on the disk (or in the same email) should be a copy of your triptych and three JPEG images (PERSON, PLACE, THING).

I will have a checklist on the front table and will be tracking what is handed in. You should too.

Regarding the final exam, review your quizzes and email me if you have ANY QUESTIONS! Ms46@sunywcc.edu