

THE INDUSTRIAL ERA: A PHOTOESSAY *Using photographs as evidence to support a position*

Evidence in support of an idea can come in many forms, including visual pieces, like photographs. In fact, photojournalists often use their work to tell a story or show a particular perspective of the world or the human experience. Two very famous photographers exposed some of the challenges faces by people during the Industrial Era: Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine.

1. Using the book *How the Other Half Lives* and the Internet, spend some time with the work of these two men, as well as any other photographs of the same period (1880 – 1915). You will find evidence in the photos of child labor, street kids, immigrant housing, sweatshops, challenging working conditions, squalid living conditions and many other issues.
2. Pick one of these broad topics that is of interest to you. For instance, you might choose “child labor” or “women workers” or “tenement conditions”.
3. Continue your examination of photographs within your chosen topic until some sort of pattern emerges, upon which you can make a claim. This might be something like “Women in the textile industry worked in poor lighting conditions.” Or “Workers lived in poorly constructed lodging.”

YOUR TASK: Find 3 photographs that support this claim and present them as a photoessay of your own.

4. Create a folder to save your photos while you’re collecting them. Keep track of important information about the files, including photographer, date, location (where the photo was taken), and URL address.
5. Write captions for each photo describing the subject, pointing out any details that support your claim. Use the ideas we’ve studied about including compelling details and key pieces of necessary factual information.
6. Write a one paragraph introduction to your photoessay, giving your audience a sense of your purpose and position, as well as any background information they may need.
7. Get a tagboard, and the print the photos, captions, and introduction once you’ve decided the arrangement of each on the tagboard. How can you be artful as well as informative?
8. Make sure the final product has
 - A title
 - Introduction paragraph
 - 3 photos with captions
 - Credits to the photographers
 - Citations showing the source of your photos
 - Clear and aesthetic presentation of photos, captions, and introduction

Rubric:

	Exemplary	Meets Standard	Below Standard
PHOTOS: Three photos are clear, relevant, cited and sourced	The photos are of good quality are cited correctly	The photos are of medium quality and are cited	The photos are of poor quality and are not cited
INTRODUCTION: One paragraph introduction clearly communicates purpose of the essay and provides any necessary background information for the audience.	The introduction includes all key information about the subject of the photoessay, details necessary background, and includes pertinent key details.	The introduction includes some key information and attempts to provide background, with few details.	The introduction has little key information or background, with few details.
CAPTIONS: A caption clearly describes the elements of each photograph that support the position of the photoessay.	Each caption is well-written, bringing the reader inside the situation through key information, descriptive elements, and sensory details.	The captions provide basic information, but lack descriptive information and sensory details.	The captions are unclear or missing necessary information to understand the photograph.
DESIGN: The layout of the photoessay is aesthetically appealing and easy to follow.	The title is compelling and informative. The introductory paragraph is well placed. The photoessay is visually appealing and well organized.	The title is uninteresting but present. The photoessay includes all requisite parts, but is not particularly visually appealing.	The title is absent or hard to read. Some parts of the photoessay are missing.
PHOTOESSAY: Student demonstrates understanding of chosen topic and the ability to take a position and support it with visual evidence.	The overall product clearly takes a stand and defends the position through an effective argument with clear descriptive details.	The product provides important information about the topic, but without a clear thesis and lacking descriptive details.	The product lacks a focus and information is disorganized and unfocused.