Sample Computer Activities

DEVELOPING HISTORY

enter >>
EQUALITY

View each of the videos below by clicking on them. As you watch each video, decide which story you would like to tell. When you have decided, click "ready to move on."

Women's Liberation  Social Class Reform

Civil Rights Movement
I want to tell the story of equality through...

Women's Liberation  Civil Rights Movement  Social Class Reform

Click on the image of the story you want to tell through photographs.
Hi! I am ARTi, a photojournalist. I was recently asked to create a visual story of the Civil Rights Movement and I need your help. Let's work together to study and select photographs for the timeline below. I'll share my expertise of photography with you as we go.

Life in the 1950's was very different than today. African Americans and whites were not seen as equals. They were separated in schools, restaurants, and on buses. The story of the Civil Rights Movement tells of African Americans' struggle for freedom.


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We need to set the stage of life during this time. Explore all these images to learn more about life back then. When you move the cursor over the images, descriptions will appear. For a larger version of the image, click on the photograph.
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"The crack of bat on head could be heard all the way down the block." The humiliation that African Americans had to face at the hands of those against equal rights became brutal at times. These female shoppers were attacked in response to others' protests at unfair treatment.
Now, let's **select** one image that best shows the separation of African Americans and whites. Your choice will be added to our visual timeline.
SUBJECT

Great Job! The division between African Americans and whites is really obvious because of the choice of subject. The two important things to think about in selecting the subject of the photograph are simplicity and framing.

Before the Civil Rights Movement, blacks were not allowed to share the same spaces as whites. This included schools, restaurants, and other public spaces.

Explore one visual narrative of separation by clicking below.

Since subject is so important to the meaning of a photograph, let’s learn more about simplicity and framing...
Simplicity

Simplicity draws the most visual attention to the center of interest. To focus on the important details, you must pay attention to the foreground and background.

The subject of this photo is clearly communicated through its simplicity. The uncomplicated background and the avoidance of unrelated objects strengthens the center of interest.

Show me the foreground.

Show me the background.

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Show me the foreground.
Show me the background.
Look at these two images and notice the differences in simplicity and how it affects your impression. When you move the cursor over the images, descriptions will appear.

Simplicity was achieved by moving in closer which reduced the busyness of the background and avoided unrelated subjects. Simplicity serves to provide a very intimate picture of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife.

This example also shows another closely tied subject choice -- framing. Let's explore framing...
Look at these two images and notice the differences in simplicity and how it affects your impression. When you move the cursor over the images, descriptions will appear.

This is the actual photograph taken. The subject of the photograph is a celebration of a key legal decision in the Civil Rights Movement. To successfully convey celebration, the photographer chose to include a busy background.

This example also shows another closely tied subject choice -- framing. Let's explore framing...
Framing determines what is included in and excluded from your picture. That is why it is so important. Look at the difference in these two photographs.

This well-dressed woman and her child wait outside the entrance of a department store in Birmingham, AL. The photograph on the left documents what appears to be to two people who would be welcomed anywhere. The picture on the right tells a completely different story.

Let's examine more about framing... move on >>
Now it's time for you to explore framing. Move the frame around to see what happens to the meaning of the picture. When you decide on the framing that you like, click to save the composition.
Now you try to frame this image. How would you frame this image to show a more personal struggle?
"I wanted to focus on the intense relationship between these three people. I felt that a vertical frame would be most appropriate because I wanted to show their legs in action."

Take a look at how two expert photojournalists framed this image. When you move the cursor over the images, their explanations will appear. How does your framed photograph compare to the professionals?
"I chose to use a horizontal frame because I wanted to focus on the people's expressions. I wanted to simplify the image as much as possible."

Take a look at how two expert photojournalists framed this image. When you move the cursor over the images, their explanations will appear. How does your framed photograph compare to the professionals?
One of the first decisions you need to make is about subject. Remember: you need to think about simplicity and framing!

Now, in your journal answer these questions.

Why did you decide to frame the image the way you did?
What effect do you think it will have on the viewer?
What did you lose by your decision? What did you gain?

Lastly, cut and paste images that are examples of subject choices including simplicity and framing from newspapers and magazines. Write an explanation of why you chose these images as examples of subject.