

WRITE THE STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO: "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Study the photo. Look at everything in the photo. List the people and objects you see.

Write down who each person was. How were they related? What was each person doing? Did they want their photo taken? Do you know who took the photo? Why did they? If you don't know, why? Speculate.

Study each object in the photo. Both those in the fore ground and in the background. Take your time. Allow the memories to wash over you. Jot down things that occur to you. Don't worry about complete sentences; just capture the gist of the memory on paper.

When you feel you have exhausted your memories, put the photo aside and go over your notes. Now you are ready to write about the memories that the photo inspired.

Sometimes the memory has nothing to do with the photo. That really doesn't matter. A memory has been kindled. A story can be written.

Some other ideas to consider?

Write about the real "truth" of the occasion, perhaps telling a story that is different from the accepted meaning of the occasion or from your memory of that time.

Write about the way the picture really tells a lie. For example, people who hate each other might be standing together and smiling for the camera, etc.

Write from the different points of view of the participants within the picture. Give their differences from each other and from your own sense of that picture. You might want to interview the people involved for this exercise?

Write about the picture from the point of view of a later generation, perhaps one not yet born.

If you are in the picture, write about it as a participant, as later observer, and maybe even as writer exploring the past and speculating about what it might mean in the future.

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Photo Analysis Worksheet

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Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

People	Objects	Activities

Limit response for each question to 5 lines of text

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?

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