

Analyze This

Iconic Photos

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What To Do:

9 iconic photos with captions have been placed around the room. Spend several minutes at each photo, reading the caption, making observations in your notebook, then choose 1 photo and write about the following:

What To Write:

Why is this photo iconic? What emotions does a photo like this bring out in others and in you. Even if you aren't knowledgeable about the events surrounding it, why has (or will) it stand the test of time? Truly analyze and critique the photo as if you were a photojournalist and what that photo has come to be symbolic for.



A Hug, November, 25th, 2014

The November 25 protest was held, along with many across the United States, in solidarity with the family of Michael Brown, the unarmed black teenager shot and killed by a white policeman in August, following a grand jury's decision not to indict the officer.

Photographer Johnny Nguyen brought his camera to the protest and met a 12-year-old black boy named Devonte Hart, who was overcome with emotion.

“I saw tears running down Devonte’s face and a sign that said free hugs around his neck,” Nguyen, 20, recalls. “There was a lot going on, but my gut told right then and there to stay with this kid.”

Nguyen followed Devonte through the crowd and watched as a white Portland police officer named Bret Barnum looked at Devonte’s sign and asked, “Do I get one of those?” The pair hugged.

The Arkansas 9



The Little Rock Nine were the nine African-American students involved in the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. Their entrance into the school in 1957 sparked a nationwide crisis when Arkansas governor Orval Faubus, in defiance of a federal court order, called out the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the Nine from entering. President Dwight D. Eisenhower responded by federalizing the National Guard and sending in units of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division to escort the Nine into the school on September 25, 1957. The military presence remained for the duration of the school year. On September 4, 1957, the Nine attempted to enter Central but were turned away by Arkansas National Guard troops called out by the governor. When Elizabeth Eckford arrived at the campus at the intersection of 14th and Park Streets, she was confronted by an angry mob of segregationist protestors. She attempted to enter at the front of the school but was directed back out to the street by the guardsmen. Walking alone, surrounded by the crowd, she eventually reached the south end of Park Street and sat down on a bench to wait for a city bus to take her to her mother's workplace. Of her experience, Eckford later said, "I tried to see a friendly face somewhere in the mob—someone who maybe would help. I looked into the face of an old woman and it seemed a kind face, but when I looked at her again, she spat on me."



Woolworth Sit-in, May 28th 1963

Iconic photograph of the injustice that occurred during the Civil Rights Period. Young white and black activists, John Salter, Joan Trumpauer, and Anne Moody sit-in at a “white’s only” counter in Woolworth's for lunch in Jackson, Mississippi. An angry mob yell racial slurs, shove and pour sugar, ketchup and mustard on them in protest.

The Terror of War (Napalm Girl) – Huyn Cong Ut, 1973



The Pulitzer Prize winning photograph captures the devastation caused by American napalm bombing during the Vietnam War. The focal point of the image is Phan Thj Kim Phuc, the naked girl who ripped her clothes off after being severely burned on her back. Though controversial at the time because of its depiction of full-frontal nudity, the image brought the horror of the Vietnam War and its many innocent victims to the forefront of the world's conscious.

Tank Man, June 5th 1989



A man who stood in front of a column of tanks on June 5, 1989, the morning after the Chinese military had suppressed the Tiananmen Square protests of by violent force, became known as the Tank Man, Unknown Protester or Unknown Rebel. As the lead tank maneuvered to pass by the man, he repeatedly shifted his position in order to obstruct the tank's attempted path around him. The incident was filmed and seen worldwide.

Currently, there is no reliable information about the identity or fate of the unknown rebel.



Starving Child and Vulture, Kevin Carter, 1993

The most haunting image on the most iconic images of photography, Kevin Carter captured the devastating famine in Sudan with a photograph of an orphaned toddler crawling to a UN feeding center while a vulture stalks her as prey. Carter won a Pulitzer Prize for his work but received harsh criticism for both the photograph and for not helping the child. A year later, gripped by the devastation and depression he had seen, Carter committed suicide.

The Falling Man, 9/11



The Falling Man is a photograph taken by [Associated Press](#) photographer [Richard Drew](#) of a man falling from the [North Tower](#) of the [World Trade Center](#) at 9:41:15 a.m. during the [September 11 attacks](#) in [New York City](#). The subject of the image, whose identity remains uncertain, was one of the people trapped on the upper floors of the skyscraper who either fell searching for safety or jumped to escape the fire and smoke. At least 200 people are believed to have fallen or jumped to their deaths that day while other estimates say the number is half of that or fewer. Officials could not recover or identify the bodies of those forced out of the buildings prior to the [collapse of the towers](#). All deaths in the attacks except those of the [hijackers](#) were ruled to be homicides due to [blunt trauma](#) (as opposed to suicides).

Omayra Sanchez



On November 13, 1985, the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted in Colombia. It was the middle of the night. The majority of residents in the surrounding areas were fast asleep. Although the volcano was 44.5 miles away, the eruption ended up causing a catastrophic landslide of mud and debris. There was zero warning and no time to evacuate. The debris traveled at about 30 miles per hour, and in some places, was as thick as 132 feet. When all was said and done, a total of 23,000 people perished. One of the most captivating and controversial images was that of Omayra Sánchez, a 13-year-old girl who had become trapped beneath the debris of her own house. Photojournalist Frank Fournier took the photo just hours before she died. It was a photo that would later win the World Press Photo of Year award in 1986. For three days, Omayra remained stuck below the water, as relief workers struggled to free her. Journalists and photographers from around the world captured her anguish and courage throughout the ordeal. Despite the fact that she knew she was going to die, for a while Omayra even stayed rather optimistic. She agreed to be interviewed and photographed. She also became frightened. She prayed. She sobbed. Workers did what they could to try and save her from the mud and rubble of her home but their efforts were met with hopelessness. They brought a water pump to the scene and quickly realized that they'd be unable to pull her out without amputating both her legs. Due to a lack of surgical equipment, doctors believed the most humane thing to do was let her die. On the third night, the young girl started to hallucinate. And before long, her face swelled up, her eyes turned from hopeful to dark red, and the skin on her hands became white. Then, at 10:05 a.m. on November 16, after 60 hours of holding on, she died. Divers later discovered that her legs were trapped by the body of her aunt and pinned against a wall.

Global Warming?



The photo was taken by photographer Kersten Langenberger and shows an unusually thin polar bear floating on ice. Langenberger said it was just one of several underweight female bears she had spotted on Svalbard. An estimated 3,000 polar bears live in the Barents Sea, of which many reside on Svalbard, and are a primary source of tourism. Polar bear populations are believed to have declined in recent decades due in large part to global warming. An assessment from the Norwegian government said that the loss of sea ice was of "great concern" for polar bears in the Barents Sea.