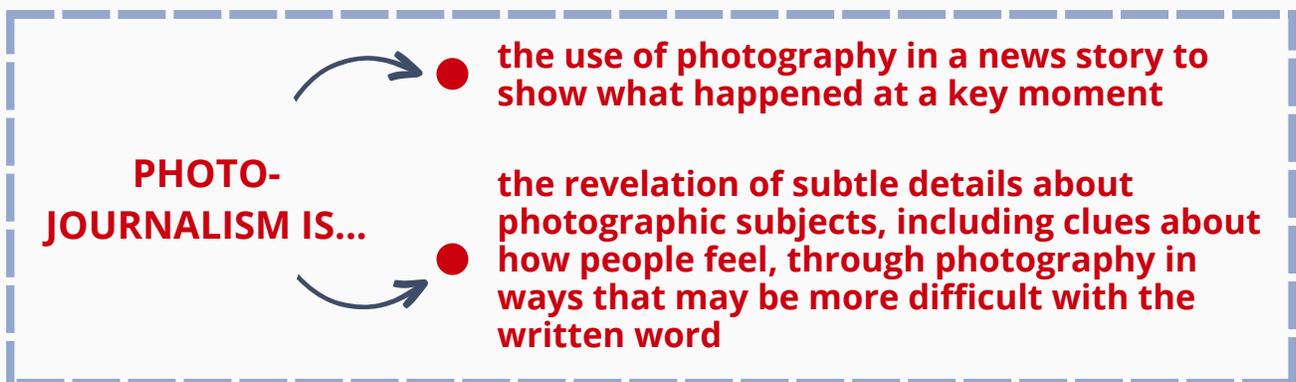


Media Literacy Mini-Lesson #7

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Have you heard the expression “a picture is worth a thousand words”? Sometimes an image is so powerful that it seems to “say” more than the text that may accompany it. Can you think of an example in your own life where this was the case?

Photojournalism is a powerful source of information, not just for what photographs show but how they help viewers understand details.



Photography also represents an important type of primary source...

since it often provides significant evidence about important events in the past. During the Civil War, Mathew Brady became America’s leading photojournalist. He captured the attention of the Northern states by providing evidence of what had happened on battlefields, including the grim aftermath of war.

How photojournalists document events:

Photojournalists are present at key moments and use their lenses to document the people, environment, emotion, and response in a way that words and description cannot justly recreate. Photojournalists offer authentic accounts that can ignite observations and curiosity in people of all ages that can produce a deep learning experience.



Examine the photograph by Glen Percy on the following page and answer the following questions. Share your responses with a peer in-person or online.

The image below depicts American labor leader Dolores Huerta outside of the 1972 Farm Bureau National Convention. Glen Percy, the photojournalist who took the photo, documented the Civil Rights Movement and the labor actions by United Farmworkers (UFW).



Dolores Huerta, Farm Bureau National Convention, Los Angeles, 1972. Permission has been granted for educational purposes only courtesy of United Farm Workers Collection, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University.

Describe what is happening in the image. What did you notice or wonder about?

What emotions do you think Huerta and some of the people in the photograph are experiencing?

What information in the photo could help you to understand more about the Civil Rights Movement and United Farmworkers strike?