Reflection paper sample assignment: Photography

PH101 – Photo History and Concepts
Instructor – Sarah Barsness

Response Paper #1 (DUE MODULE 4)
In the first few modules of this class, you have read and learned about the origins of photography and early inventors and practitioners. You have been absorbing a LOT of new information, so this paper is a chance for you to reflect on what had the most meaning and resonance for you as an artist.

Write at least 500 words, using the following questions as prompts. Please address ALL the questions but also feel free to add other insights!

1 – Think about what life might have been like before the invention of photography.
   • Name 3 aspects of your daily life that seem very ordinary to you, but that would have been impossible – and maybe unimaginable - before photography.
   • Reflect on how this has changed how we think about our lives, and how those “problems” were handled before photography.

2 – Select a photo from Chapters 1-7 that you HATE or think is BORING.
   • Give basic info about photographer, technique and year.
   • Try to explain why you hate this photo: composition, technique, etc.
   • Why do you think this photo is important historically?
   • What could help you learn to love this photo?

3 – Select a photo from Chapters 1-7 that you LOVE.
   • Give basic info about photographer, technique and year.
   • Describe what you think is exciting about this photo – composition, technique, subject.
   • How do you imagine this photo (and/or technique) could influence your own work?

Specs:
   • Length: 2 pages - 500 words. You can also include drawings, collage and other media, but be sure you meet the minimum word requirement.
   • Legibly hand written or typed in a legible font.
   • Grammar/Proofreading: Your writing must be comprehensible to the reader.

Criteria/grading rubric:

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<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
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<td>Reflection paper makes connections between experience and knowledge and leads to new insights and provocative questions. Exceeds minimum length.</td>
<td>Paper makes connections between the writer’s experiences and new material being learned in the class. Meets minimum length.</td>
<td>Writer does not make connections between experience and new knowledge. Writing is incomprehensible or very vague. Does not meet minimum length.</td>
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PH310 – Fine Art Photography
Instructor – Sarah Barsness

Reflection Paper #3 (DUE MODULE 9)

Photography has undergone a major revolution in the past 20 years, with the development of digital technology. Not only does this change the way most of us make and process photos, it changes how they produce meaning and how they exist as meaningful “objects”. Fewer and fewer images become paper prints – most exist only in our hard-drives or in various forms, on the web. In this reflection paper, I want you to talk about your relationship to digital photography, and, in particular, how you think fine art photography could or should operate and exist in this new age.

Use these following prompts to get started but feel free to go off on tangents!

1 – How would you describe your relationship to digital photography?
   • What do you think are the most exciting qualities of digital (versus analog) photography and what aspects of digital do you dislike (if any)?

2 – How do you feel about photography on the web?
   • What are your favorite photography sites and why?
   • Are these sites and photographers a primary inspiration to your own work?
   • Compare the experience of looking at images online to looking at them in a gallery or a museum. Is the difference significant or insignificant to you?

3 – How do you feel about posting and marketing your own work online?
   • What sites (including your own) do you post your own photos to – or have you posted to in the past? What do you like – or dislike – about this process?
   • What do you think of artists who exist entirely on the web with no gallery? (Print on demand)
   • Are there other ways that contemporary fine art photography is changing in response to the digital age? Good, bad, not sure?

Specs:
   • Length: 1-2 pages - 500+ words. You can also include drawings, collage and other media, but be sure you meet the minimum word requirement.
   • Legibly hand written or typed in a legible font.
   • Grammar/Proofreading: Your writing must be comprehensible to the reader.
   • Criteria/grading rubric:

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