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“A Photographer Captures His Community”

One of the main reasons I chose this photo essay was because of the color choice. Black and white photos are very rare in times like these, so instead of acting like black and white pictures were normal, it stood out to me. Also, just the title of the article stood out as well. Taking a place such as Chicago which is known for having a lot of people and putting a black and white filter on it seems so odd. In the photos since only one or a few people are highlighted, I believe that this makes them personal snapshots. Personal snapshots are there to “commemorate an event.” This means that these pictures are showing us things that make us recall memories. Even though they may not be our personal memories, they may bring up memories for the person who took the photos. Because these pictures are supposed to represent a “change” in this photographers community. Also these photos are there for instructional purposes I believe. Because there are only a couple of people highlighted in some pictures, that is why I believe that these could be used for instructional purposes. Another thing that makes pictures instructional is that also, in some of the pictures, they are lacking background materials. That is another core thing that makes pictures instructional. The pictures can also be used as a normalizing effect. Making these pictures of change be seen as a normal thing because of the light that is being shined on them. The photographer would like to show other people how their place in Chicago is changing, and their way to “normalize” it is to take pictures and show them to people. Stylistic features are also used in almost every picture to make someone stand out. This feature is used I

believe to point out the other features in the photographs and the other techniques they used. All of these are reasons as to why I chose the second set of pictures to analyze.