Laylah Leech

Dr. Despain

English 200

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Reflection #2

1. After going through the photo essays and looking at the pictures included, they all have something in common. Most of them have the color vs black and white and that shows the expression and mood of the photos. When I look at these photo essays, I also see young adults and teens who are finding themselves and a space where they are comfortable. You can see in these young people’s faces that they look free and happy.
2. As I analyze the “zoom out” feature that the photographer used in this text I see the different light glares between the phone and the sun representing them being out making memories and having that ultimate freedom that they’ve been waiting for. And when I also analyze the “zoom in” feature it shows motion and focus on a young woman’s hair flowing in the wind, also representing freedom.
3. Connections in the real world are special because it can be important for your mental and physical health in a way that helps you through everyday challenges that you may face and just being around other people can help your life expectancy. Nowadays people feel as though being around their friends, for example, can help them through personal problems like anxiety or any stress that they may be feeling at the time. As I read *The First Car* photo essay, it expresses how many young people feel that freedom to explore things in an intimate way that they’ve never done before. It shows them relieving themselves freely in the real world and having that chance to explore and be themselves genuinely.
4. As I read through *The Park in Los Angeles* a line that sticks out the most to me is “Meeting at the park was therapeutic for the group, allowing them to express themselves and learn from one another in a safe, intimate space.” This line sticks out to me the most because I personally feel as though everyone should have at least somewhere or something to freely express themselves. The people in the photo shows community. Community is where groups share common traits, interests, or norms. The friend group went to the park during the pandemic to just be who they are surrounded by people who make them feel worthy. I feel like we need more people around the community to come together and help uplift each other and make each other feel more worthy because sometimes that’s all that someone may need.
5. Something that jumps out at me is how it states how they feel like they’re in a place where they feel very strongly that they’re surrounding themselves around the right people. This shows a happy and healthy impression from this message and in the photo, there are two people. One is lying down with their head facing the sky with his eyes closed, enjoying nature and the moment feeling free and open. The photo and text connect in a way by expressing themselves in the park with their friends.
6. The people in these photos are all different in a way. Some are nonbinary, queer or transgender. As I analyze these photos it shows me how free and comfortable they are by the clothes that they wear, the hairstyles, the smiles on their faces, the setting of the photos etc. But one thing I wouldn’t have noticed from those photos that I got from the text is how the park brings them together to help them feel whole as a person. I say this because even though in the pictures you can clearly see them in nature, having food and enjoying the time they’re spending together, I wouldn’t have known that a specific place like the park could be therapeutic for the group and how it allows them to express themselves and learn from one another in a safe intimate space. One quote from the people in this community that added important detail to this piece is, “It’s nice to have little places where we can really connect with the earth and with nature and hear birds and squirrels and the trees and also be able to see your friends.”
7. Looking back, some craft moves that impressed me were how the photographer took these photos of the people having a wonderful time in each other’s presence. There were many zoom in pictures that gave a lot of meaning like the details of nature, the grass or trees or maybe the expressions between the two people where they were being very intimate holding hands and to the looks of it, enjoying the wind and lying down staring into the sky. There were also a lot of zoom out pictures that also gave a lot of meaning too like the different facial expressions that everyone had giving that “freedom” expression or how the different clothes that they were wearing show their personality maybe. As the author grabbed my attention by showing these wonderful taken pictures and giving a brief description of context behind these photos to explain what’s going on, I would use this strategy to use in my own work. It would help the reader, that was once like me get a just on what’s going on in the text and giving that visual description to help better understand.