

English 1020 / The visual essay **Essay #4**

Format: poster size (essay portion must be written according to MLA); **Audience:** our society;
Genre: visual essay

Instructions:

This assignment offers you an opportunity to create your own visual essay; to capture social problems on your campus or in your community. For this exercise, you will need to select a series of photos, about (about 7-10) that document a particular social problem. Consider a problem that interests you or relates to your age group. Homelessness, poverty, sexism, racism, binge drinking, or campus safety are some of the problems you might consider.

The photos can be collected by several means:

- You could shoot your own photos for this project. If you are taking the photos in private settings, you must obtain written permission from your subject(see attached).
- You may use photos through published sources (e.g., books).
- You may search websites for photos.
- Photos may also be obtained from a stock art archive on the internet. You can go to www.corbis.com or www.ditto.com, where you can search by keyword(s).
- Please note: You must document where you obtained the photos by providing source, ID number (if available), photographer (if known) and publisher/website address. If using personal photos, identify yourself as the photographer.
- In instances where you decide to take your own photos, please remember that you should always protect the privacy and safety of your subjects. Many problems are controversial and often lead to negative stigmatization of those experiencing them. Remember, your visual essay should only include photos of subjects who agree to have their photo taken and used for your assignment.
- Each photo should contain a caption with the following information:

[Title]; [date of photograph (or date unknown, or "circa")]; [name of photographer (if known)]; [complete source information if "borrowed" from Internet or published source]. Brief statement about the significance of the photo.

- In addition to your photos, you should also include a short essay (300-500 words) that identifies the social problem you've selected and describes how the pictures relate to this problem.
- The photos must be presented on a traditional photo album, on a standard poster board, and the written portion must be presented in MLA format.
- 60 possible points for the visual presentation of the essay and 40 possible points for the written portion.