

Ethical Photography & Reflection

According to [public thinker Parker Palmer](#), social change requires humility and chutzpah. To co-create a world more in accord with justice, we must find our public voices - chutzpah for better possibilities. That's not always simple, but it's essential for us moving forward. Fortunately, there are some easy ways to start. Take a photo, and share a sentence about it, when:

You are intrigued by public art

You see a beautiful building

You are surprised by the presence of X

You learn something new

You are caused to wonder

You are grateful for an opportunity

The purpose of our photo reflection component is not to give you an assignment, harass you with busy work, or ask you to engage in "pat yourself on the back" slacktivism. **The purpose is to leverage our location in the world to make the world more compassionate, empathetic, and humane.** When you collect short moments like those described above and give us the chance to share them, you're helping us show others that there is much more beauty, possibility, and need for social change in the world than people might realize. And you're helping to build that change (Moisés García Guzmán presented on his use of photos and text on [Twitter](#) as part of indigenous (Zapotec) language activism during 2018's Seeking Global Citizenship Symposium at Haverford). Like Moisés and his interns did, **consider co-creating the photos and captions with the people who will be in the photo, or whose culture, environment, work, etc. you will be photographing!**

If you're concerned about the possibility of inappropriate representation, the best thing you can do - always - is ask your hosts about whether there are things they'd like to share about their organization or their community. Most justice advocates are interested in more exposure - when it's done respectfully.

Of course, if you have a "big and mighty reflection" feel free to share that too, but all of the small moments are important as well.

Photographing People

When photographing the people you work with, live with, and encounter, there are important guidelines to follow:

- Represent people truthfully and show dignity, support, and integrity.
- Ensure those being represented in the images maintain the right to share their story in their own way through consent and approval.
- Do not stereotype, sensationalize, or discriminate against people, situations, or places.
- Use images, messages, and case studies with the full understanding, participation, and permission of the subjects and parents/guardians (when necessary). The College's photo release waiver for parents/guardians of minors can be found [here](#).
- Under the law, you may take photos of people in public places without asking their permission. Use your best judgement about which situations are ones in which you should ask permission anyway, and which feel OK to snap photos without permission.
- Under the law, when on private property, you must ask permission to photograph.

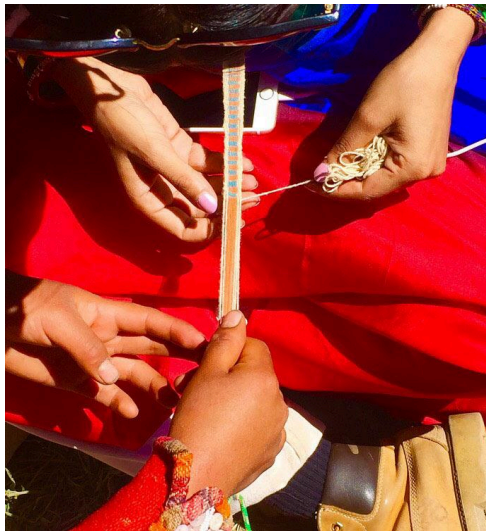
But keep in mind that there are often creative, beautiful, and engaging ways to visually represent your experience without photographing human subjects (especially when including a descriptive reflection)! There are a range of examples of excellent submissions from 2017 interns below, including a beautiful non-person photo with a great reflection, photos with people whose identities are creatively kept

confidential, and a photo that followed the guidelines of getting consent and approval from the photo's subjects before photographing and sharing:



Hope Ebert '19 - Food Moxie, Philadelphia, PA

Here are some cherry tomatoes that we picked from the [@foodmoxie](#) garden! Real access to healthy & sustaining food is a necessity for all people, and my work this summer showed how hard it can be to break down food systems that exclude a variety of people. For example, in the first few weeks, I thought that we just had to produce as much food as possible, before realizing that many small-scale community gardens lack the industrial freezers and general storage infrastructure necessary for all the produce to stay fresh long enough to be completely used. #haverfordcpgc



Joseph Spir '20 - Awamaki, Ollantaytambo, Peru

Every tour to Patacancha brings me so much joy. Connecting visitors to weavers is magical, to say the least. Weaving brings so much power and so much beauty. What we call art, they call everyday life.
#haverfordcpgc



Courtney Ahmed '18 – Prayasam, Kolkata, India

Allahdi ("Beloved") is Prayasam's dance studio for girls and women from the underprivileged communities of Kolkata. It is their platform to freely express themselves through dance and take ownership of their bodies which are routinely restricted and violated. Here they are making a story out of their movements that will resonate with girls everywhere: this story is called RITU: Seasons of Reflection, to be performed this December. #haverfordcpgc



Kirsten Mullin '19 – Cherry Buttons Cooperative, Sefrou, Morocco**

Pictured are three women weaving buttons as part of their work at the Cherry Buttons Women's Cooperative located in Sefrou, Morocco. The cooperative uses the buttons traditionally seen on djellabas (the dress all the women are pictured wearing here) and makes them into jewelry to sell. All the profits are split among the women at the cooperative, which helps them maintain economic independence. The buttons they are sewing were first brought to Sefrou by the city's Jewish inhabitants, who later taught the Muslim women living in the area the craft. Because of this, traditional buttons still have the Star of David sewn into the top. For a long time, the sale of the buttons was controlled by men who made the women work for little to no money and then sold the buttons at a high price. Now, women control their own craft and are able to reap the benefits of their own work. This was the first cooperative in Sefrou, and now there are dozens scattered throughout town aimed at providing work for women. #haverfordcpgc ****This intern got consent**

from her supervisor and those in the photo before taking it, and approval of the photo by the women after taking it.



Maria Padron '19 - Maine Wabanaki REACH

The Haverford College motto is "Not just more learned, but imbued with better learning". As I reflect on my time in Maine, I can clearly see not only all of the things that I've learned, but also the new challenges I've faced, the resources I've gathered, friends I've made and discoveries of my self, my learning style and the directions I want to go next. In a way, it was reminiscent of climbing up a mountain with new friends, eager to help you reach the top - and to get down - safely and with a lot of great memories. [@haverford_cpvc](#)
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