Photography Deep Dive: Rehearsing Your Critical Eye

Assignment Goal: To analyze the work of a professional photographer and explore how their photos communicate stories, feelings, and ideas. This is your first "Rehearse" assignment for the quarter! MAKE YOUR RESPONCES STAND OUT by highlighting or changing text. Use complete sentences, paragraphs and proper grammar. This is a high point/value assignment - this should take no less than 45 minutes to do a basic completion.

Due Date: End of the Week (Submit on Canvas)

Part 1: Choose Your Artist

If you are going on the field trip, your artist is **Ami Vitale**. If you are not attending, choose an artist from the inspiration list or one of your own favorites.

<table>
<tr><th>Field Trip Artist</th><th>Inspiration Photographers Example</th></tr>
<tr><td>Ami Vitale (National Geographic Photographer)</td><td>Ansel Adams (Nature/Landscape)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">The video Ami Vitale: Visual Storytelling - Making a Vital Impact | Bild Expo provides direct insight into Ami Vitale's process and philosophy, which is valuable context for students attending her talk.</td><td>Gordon Parks (Photojournalism/Documentary)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Annie Leibovitz (Portraits)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Steve McCurry (Photojournalism, e.g., "Afghan Girl")</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cindy Sherman (Conceptual/Self-Portrait)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Paul Nicklen (Wildlife/Conservation)</td></tr>
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My Chosen Photographer:

Part 2: Learn About the Artist (CX: Contextual Relevancy)

This section helps you understand *who* your artist is and *why* their work matters.

1. **Who is this photographer?** (Where are they from? What kind of photography do they do—like portraits, wildlife, fashion, or war? Write 1–2 sentences.)

2. **What is the artist's main focus or message?** (For example, Ami Vitale often focuses on **conservation** and the **connection between humans and the natural world**.)

3. **How is their work used to tell a story or document history?** (Think about where their photos are published—magazines, books, galleries—and the real-world issues they show.)

Part 3: Analyze a Photograph (V: Visual Literacy & CR: Critical Response)

Find and select one specific photograph by your chosen artist that you feel is very powerful.

1. **Title of the Photo (or a short description):**

2. **Elements of Art and Principles of Design:** (Look closely at the photo. What stands out? Use art words! Choose at least **two** from the list below and explain how the photographer uses them.)
   - **Elements:** Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Space (positive/negative), Value (lightness/darkness)
   - **Principles:** Balance, Contrast, Emphasis, Movement, Unity
   - **Art Word 1:** _____
     - **Explanation:**
   - **Art Word 2:** _____

- **Explanation:**

3. **What is the story or message?** (What is happening? What feeling or idea do you think the photographer wants you to take away?)

4. **Critical Response:** Do you think this photograph is *successful* in communicating its message? Why or why not? (There is no wrong answer, but you must explain your thinking!)

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