Document 1:-Photographic Analysis Sheet

**Interpreting Photographs**

Like political cartoons, photographs must be carefully analyzed. Many people think that photographs have no bias because the image is a snapshot of an exact moment in time.

However, there are many factors to consider when analyzing photographs. The photographer has bias, and can influence the outcome of the snapshot. It is important to remember that a photographer can influence, mislead, misrepresent, or dramatize; just as other artists can, using their distinct medium.

**General questions to consider**

* Who took the picture?
* What was the purpose of the photograph?
* Why did the photographer take a picture of this image?
* What were the photographer’s point of view and what message was being conveyed?
* Was it ‘staged’ for effect or was this a spontaneous (candid) shot?
* Was there an interest group who paid to have the image taken?
* Was it created for propaganda, as a record of family history, or even as a joke?
* What is missing, or was omitted?
* What lies outside the frame of the photograph?
* Is there a caption, and, if so, does this influence your reaction to and meaning of the photograph?

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