

Short Paper 1.1: Photo Autobiography

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The old adage says, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” And in this class, we will explore and analyze how an image is produced, how an image is seen and understood, and what meanings an image can convey, evoke, or cover up.

To start this critical sequence, you are asked to take an image with which you are already well acquainted and familiar—your own. **Find any photograph of yourself.** If you do not have ready access to a self-photo, you can use your university ID.

Using the photo as a jumping off point, write a **2- to 3-page autobiography** of yourself. Considering the following questions:

- What is in the photo? Or what is the photo about?
- Why was the photo taken? Who took the photo? Who is the photo for?
- What does photo tell us about you? What doesn’t it tell us?
- Most importantly, what will you select to tell us? Why?

Remember that this is an autobiography, which means you are telling your audience and me something about yourself, your life, who you are, what you do, and what is important to you. Keep in mind that you only have three pages, less than a thousand words, to convey something of yourself. Use the photo as a way to focus your autobiography.

Targeted outcomes: 1, 3

Turn in: 2-3 pages, typed, no title page, double-spaced, stapled copy of photo

Due: Thursday, September 29