Finding Focus:

Strategies for Students Creating Projects for Social Change

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Investigating Human Rights Abuses In Photographs

Student Research Papers

PHOT 10-History of Photography
Excerpts from research papers:

• Slavery in the American Civil War era (Art. 4)

• Abu Ghraib Prison (Art. 5)

• Child Soldiers (Art. 26 & 29)
Article 4: Slavery

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4 prescribes that “no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.” However, in human history, there has been always slavery, and countless people have suffered from and even been killed by it. This paper focuses on black slaves in the U.S. history and examines how we could have prevented them from experiencing such a hard time.

These three photos show the brutality of slavery in the U.S. which began at almost the beginning of the country in 1776 and ended with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. During the period, about 450,000 Africans were directly brought to the U.S. and forced to work in plantations. What those photos show is that they were not treated as human beings but almost like animals which “owners” kept with chains on their bodies and whipped as a penalty.
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a 60 Minutes news report. Also Seymour Hersh, in The New Yorker magazine, reported the story.

![Figure 2 Abu Ghreb abuse](image)

The above photograph shows an Iraqi prisoner being tortured by high voltage electric shocks. The picture has been one of the most famous representing pictures of the horrendous crimes committed against the prisoners in Abu Ghreb. The prisoner was released after the scandal, as investigations have showed that he wasn’t guilty of any crime that gives justification for his imprisonment in the first place. It turned out that this prisoner is a writer and a journalist, and he is currently living abroad away from his beloved country. This photograph alone shows at least six violations of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The photo shows violations of articles five, seven, eight, nine, ten, and eleven of the Declaration of Human Rights. It shows inhuman cruel torture implemented upon the prisoner, unequal protection of the
Excerpts from research papers:

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• Child Soldiers (Art. 26 & 29)
In the photo above, a child cries because he is being disarmed. The very fact that he believes that the ability to exact violence gives him power and status shows the traumatic wounds inflicted to him. This illustrates the fact that risk of physical injury or death is not the only inherent gamble with being a soldier. Child soldiers all face post traumatic experiences after their tenure in combat and are often hunted by other militias and are ostracized by their families, if their loved ones have not been executed already. And if they are rehabilitated into society, many child soldiers have missed years of education, and face problems reintegrating with society. All these rights taken away from them could be summarized by their loss of their childhood, and the love and care that should have come with it. This is grimly illustrated in the following photo, juxtaposing the life he should have led, by the life he is being forced to lead right now.
Public Service Announcements

• The Right to Education
  (Art. 26)

• The Right to Work and Choice of Employment
  (Art. 23)

• The Right to Life and Security of Person
  (Art. 3)
CHILDREN IN CRISIS

DON’T LET ONE CHILD MISS OUT.

www.childrencrisiscenter.com
WHY CAN’T I BE WHAT I STUDIED TO BE?

Help start the conversation at www.focusedontomorrow.org
YOU COULD COVER IT UP...

- **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.*

- An estimated **1.3 million women are victims** of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.**

- The **majority (73%)** of family violence victims are female. Females were **84%** of spousal abuse victims and **86%** of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.***

**OR YOU COULD CALL**

1-877-384-3578


Hiding in Plain Sight

• A slideshow on homelessness in Silicon Valley
• PHOT 63-Photojournalism/Photo Documentary
Produced by Lishuan Lee, Foothill College
Easy-going, easy to talk to guy. He looks like he would listen to the photos I may want, not controlling. Fun, adventurous, casual.

I would feel at ease; he has a very friendly smile and face.

Absolutely! Again I feel as though he would hear the poses, scenes, angles that I spoke with him about. I also feel as though he would invite other poses, scenes and angles that I may not have thought about, bringing in his professional skills and experiences.

He looks friendly, nice, easy going. He looks comfortable and easy to work with.

Yes, because he looks like he could stay calm when things may turn hectic. Wedding pictures could take a long time, and he looks like he would have fun with it, making the bridal party feel comfortable and relaxed.

Looks Friendly
Relaxed, easy-going

I would feel fine with it. He would not make me nervous.

Seems relaxed but not as professional. I would want to have casual shots taken, but probably would not choose for a more formal situation.

I would feel good about this person taking my picture because he looks like he would make the person he is photographing feel comfortable and work with you to make sure that you are happy with the pictures.
Photo Interviews:  
*Human Rights Awareness*

- Provides an opportunity for students to learn from the perspective of others
- Allows students to see themselves as citizens of a larger global community and engage on a person-to-person level
- Raise personal awareness of the various UNDHR articles
- To exercise their human rights by teaching others and to recognize the positive impact they may have, even on a small scale
The Interview Process

- Dress and present yourself appropriately; Be unobtrusive and humble
- Sensitive topics – “Tell me more…”
- Show interest in your subject, i.e., eye contact
- Five ‘Ws’ & One ‘H’
- Ask open ended questions
- Ethics- Accuracy, behavior, and privacy issues
Interview Assignment
Self-Assessment Questions

• What did you learn specifically about Human Rights while doing this project?

• What do you know now about human rights that you didn’t know before?

• What did you learn from seeing projects other than your own?
Self-Assessment Responses

• “I didn’t know that the whole world shared the same rights.”

• “I learned that we have the right to escape persecution.”

• “...there is a way that human rights can be governed outside of an individual country’s government.”

• “I didn’t know there was a declaration of human rights.”

• “...that as an American, it’s easy to take our human rights for granted.”

• “...I will always try to teach people to be more peaceful.”
I don't know such people in person. But of course I read news from time to time about human rights violations here and there. And sometimes human rights get violated because of historical/political/economical reasons. Just for example, one of human rights is that everyone has the right to "a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care," and unlike most other industrialized countries, US does not offer most of its citizens subsidized and decent health care.

- J. D.
Human rights are something that affects or affected everyone, to not value them is to discredit all of our pasts and history.

- Josh L
As a German I made this country my new home. My children are born US-citizen.

My frustration in regards to human rights here in Amerika is, that many US citizen have no idea how fragile the protection of their rights and liberty is.

If the President of this Country can talk about the Constitution as this darn old paper, without getting impeached or thrown out of office then I believe that one day in the future we will have to pay for our human rights in blood again.
I was born and raised in Iran. Wearing hijab is compulsory and I’ve always hated it. I believe this is my right to choose either to wear it or not. But it was always forced upon me. I’d never imagine one day I can freely walk on the street without the headscarf, with my dog which at one point Iranian police decided to take pet dogs away from owners.

- Mitra. K