



Photography

The students will learn to use photography as an editorial enhancement.

Materials

- copy of “Caption Writing” (page 124) for each student
- copy of “Choosing a Photograph” (page 125) for each student
- copy of “Crop These” (page 126) for each student
- writing paper
- pens or pencils
- old magazines and newspapers
- articles and accompanying photographs cut from magazines and newspapers
- scissors
- glue sticks
- cameras and film (optional)

Directions

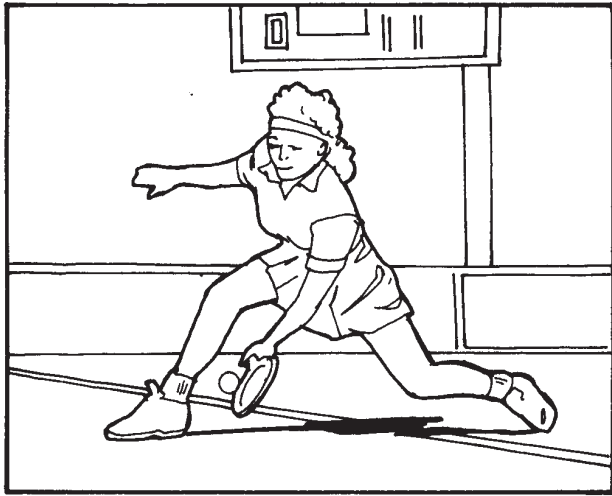
This activity can be done in several parts.

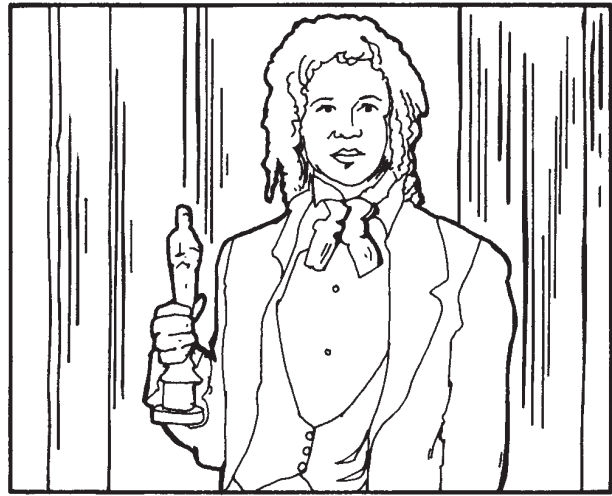
1. Distribute page 124. Discuss the “photographs” with the students and what might be happening in them. Also discuss captions. Define captions as brief descriptions or commentaries on photographs or illustrations. After your discussion, have the students complete page 124. Share their ideas.
2. Divide the students into groups. Give each group an article and accompanying photograph. Also distribute page 125. Have each group answer the questions on page 125 in regards to the photograph and article. Afterwards, discuss their findings.
3. Discuss the importance of showing only what is important to display in any photograph used with writing. Tell the students that this is accomplished through cropping. Cropping removes all superfluous, fuzzy, or potentially confusing elements. Distribute page 126 to the students and ask them to crop the “photographs” there. Afterwards, share their cropped photographs and discuss them. Are most of the students’ cropped photographs the same?
4. Now that the students have learned the basics of photographs that accompany writing, it is time for them to start from scratch. Each student should write an editorial essay on a topic of his or her choice, taking the writing through the writing process. When nearly complete, the student should either find a photograph or two from magazines and newspapers to include with the final draft or actually take accompanying photos with a camera. (A third alternative is for the student to draw the photos.) The final draft should be written with spaces for the photographs (as in a newspaper article). If desired, this can be done on a computer, with the photographs scanned in place.
5. Share and display the editorials.

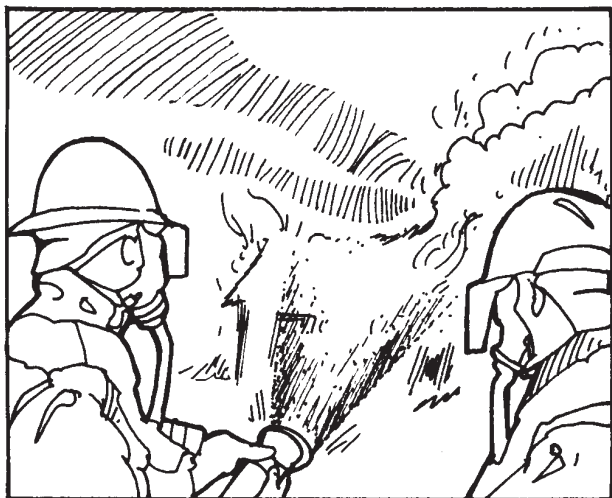
Caption Writing

Photographs make editorials more interesting to read and easier to understand. The best photographs should almost tell a story themselves; however, in order to make a photograph's content completely clear, a caption is written under each. The caption tells who or what the picture is about.

Look at these "photographs." Write a good caption below each one.









Choosing a Photograph

Study the photograph your teacher has given your group. Discuss it with each other and then write your answers to the questions below.

1. What is the photo's content or subject? _____

2. Is there anything unusual about its size, shape, or color? (If it is a black-and-white photo, look for shades within the monotone.) _____

3. From what angle is this picture taken? Is this a close-up, a picture taken from far away, or is the subject in the mid-ground? _____

4. What is the photo's emotional tone? Does it make you feel happy, sad, angry, or calm? _____

5. What, if any, are the special effects that are used? _____

6. How does the time of day or lighting affect this photo? _____

7. Do you notice any patterns or textures in the photo? _____

8. What do you think the purpose is in having this photo accompany an article? How could it help or motivate the viewer? _____

9. Who is the audience to whom this photo would appeal? _____

10. What makes this photo stand out? _____

Crop These

When a picture editor wants to make the subject larger and remove parts of the picture that do not need to be there, he or she crops the picture. Cropping means cutting or trimming. To crop, use two sheets of paper or cardboard as cropping tools. Place them alongside two sides of the picture. Move the cropping tools until you find where you would like to crop. Draw lines lightly and cut accordingly. If necessary, use additional paper to crop the other sides as well.

The pictures below have too much in them. Cut out the pictures. Using a ruler, mark where they should be cropped. Draw lines lightly to show where to cut. Crop the pictures, glue them to construction paper, and then color them.

