

ASSIGNMENT I: VISUAL REFLECTION

Suggested time: 30 to 40 minutes

Children cross a river in the Philippines on their way to school.



ASSIGNMENT I: VISUAL REFLECTION

Examine the photograph on page 2. Reflect upon the ideas and impressions suggested by the photograph.

The Assignment

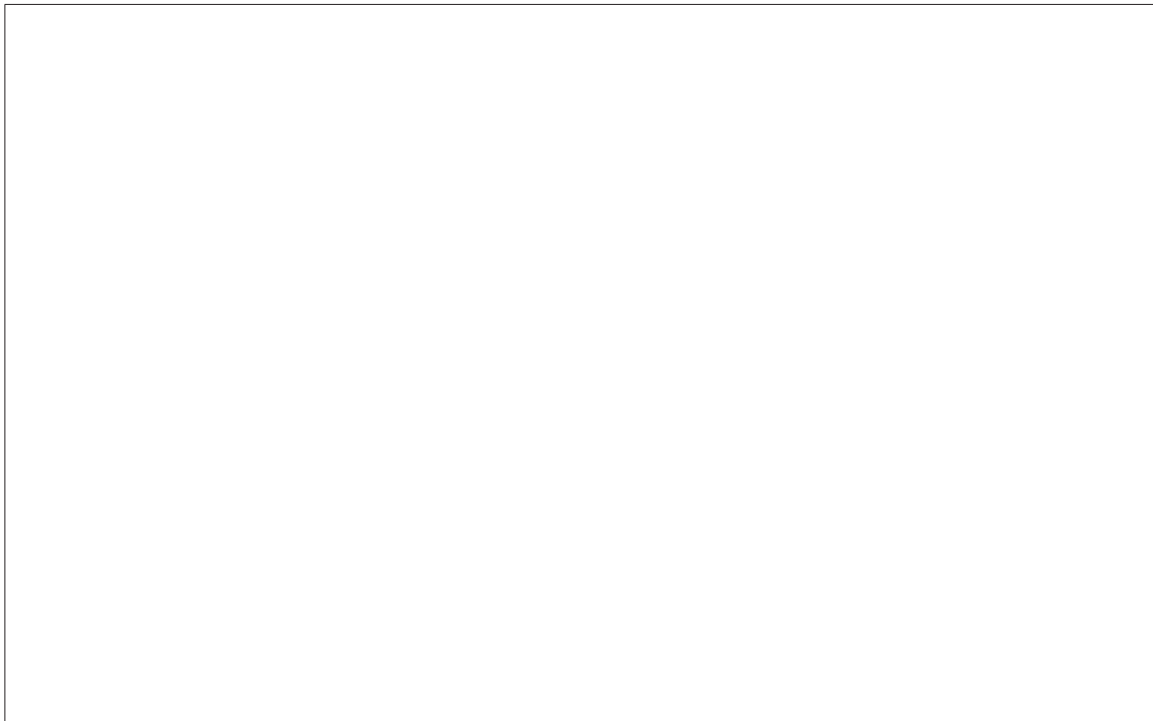
What ideas and impressions does the photograph suggest to you? Consider the context, and develop your response by referring to the photograph.

In your writing, you may respond personally, critically, and/or creatively.

You **must**:

- Select a *prose form* that is appropriate to the ideas you wish to express and that will enable you to effectively communicate to the reader.
- Consider how you can create a strong *unifying effect*.

Initial Planning

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to use for initial planning of their response.

There is additional space for planning on page 4.

Examples of Students' Writing with Teachers' Commentaries

English Language Arts 30–2

Visual Reflection Assignment, January 2017

Example Scored Satisfactory (S)

In this picture there are three children from the Philippines, crossing a river on their way to school. It appears to be they are floating on tube from a tractor tire that they probably found and used it as an effective tool to get to school. The water looks green, murky, and dirty. Water you don't want to be drinking or bathing from.

The children in the picture don't seem to be in any kind of distress, but although, enjoying their trip to school. Every morning is an adventure for these children, getting up every morning to float across to get to school. That is another thing that makes them so happy, to be able to go to school. These three children don't care how long it takes, how they get there, or what obstacles they have to overcome, as long as they get to go to school.

These children realize that some kids don't have the opportunity they have to get an education. It makes people realize how lucky we are here in Canada. We take a bus, drive ourselves, or walk no more than ten minutes to get to school. These children see the river and their tire tube as an opportunity and blessing to get a grade school education.

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EXAMPLE PAPER—Satisfactory (S)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p>Ideas and Impressions (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student’s perceptions are appropriate but may be generalized. • Support is adequate and generally connected to the student’s ideas and impressions. • The response is generally clearly developed. 	<p>The student’s perception that “These children realize that some kids don’t have the opportunity they have to get an education. It makes people realize how lucky we are here in Canada” is appropriate and generalized.</p> <p>Support is adequate and generally connected to the student’s ideas and impressions, as in “Every morning is an adventure for these children, getting up every morning to float across to get to school. That is another thing that makes them so happy, to be able to go to school” and “We take a bus, drive ourselves, or walk no more than ten minutes to get to school.”</p> <p>The response is generally clearly developed from the student’s discussion of how “there are three children from the Philippines, crossing a river on their way to school,” to the assertion that “These three children don’t care how long it takes, how they get there, or what obstacles they have to overcome, as long as they get to go to school,” through to the conclusion that “These children see the river and their tire tube as an opportunity and blessing to get a grade school education.”</p>	<p>S</p>

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p>Presentation (S)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student's voice is matter-of-fact and the tone is appropriate. Stylistic choices are adequate and occasionally effective. 	<p>The student's voice is matter-of-fact ("In this picture there are three children from the Philippines, crossing a river on their way to school") and the tone is appropriate ("The water looks green, murky, and dirty. Water you don't want to be drinking or bathing from").</p> <p>Stylistic choices are adequate ("The children in the picture don't seem to be in any kind of distress") and occasionally effective ("These three children don't care how long it takes, how they get there, or what obstacles they have to overcome, as long as they get to go to school").</p>	<p>S</p>

Everyday almost all Canadians have access to food and clean water. We have the opportunity to receive the best education and be successful in whatever job field we choose. We are used to living a certain lifestyle and unfortunately we take a lot of things in our daily lives for granted. Often without thinking we say things like “I’m starving” after two hours of just having a meal. Or we hate on school because we have to wake up early then sit there and learn new concepts. We make these statements without realizing how lucky we really are to live in a country that provides the best quality of life for us.

The picture shows students in the Philippines floating on a raft in water on their way to school. None of them are wearing life jackets and most of them are struggling to stay on the raft. If anything like this were to happen in Canada there would be an outrage. So why do we find it ok for other citizens in other countries to live like this? We have become so accustomed to living a certain way that we do not have to worry about what third world countries have to worry about. When we see or hear about things that do go on in third world countries we should have the desire to help them. Unfortunately we are sometimes selfish and choose to look the other way. All it takes is for one person to care enough to help the citizens in third world countries to help change their lives for the better. We take so much for granted in one day. Everybody deserves to live a life with access to food, clean water, and education. If it only takes one person to make a change why are there not more people doing it. We all have the power to make the change. Let’s start today.

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EXAMPLE PAPER—Proficient (Pf)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p>Ideas and Impressions (Pf)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student’s perceptions are thoughtful and considered. Support is relevant, detailed, and clearly connected to the student’s ideas and impressions. The response is coherently developed. 	<p>The student’s perceptions that “We have become so accustomed to living a certain way that we do not have to worry about what third world countries have to worry about” and “If it only takes one person to make a change why are there not more people doing it” are thoughtful and considered.</p> <p>Support is relevant (“Everyday almost all Canadians have access to food and clean water”), detailed (“Often without thinking we say things like ‘I’m starving’ after two hours of just having a meal. Or we hate on school because we have to wake up early then sit there and learn new concepts”), and clearly connected to the student’s ideas (“Unfortunately, we are sometimes selfish and choose to look the other way”).</p> <p>The response is coherently developed from the student’s discussion of how “We make these statements without realizing how lucky we really are to live in a country that provides the best quality of life for us,” how “If anything like this were to happen in Canada there would be an outrage,” and how “We take so much for granted in one day. Everybody deserves to live a life with access to food, clean water and education.”</p>	<p>Pf</p>
<p>Presentation (Pf)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student’s voice is distinct and the tone is well considered. Stylistic choices are specific and frequently effective. 	<p>The student’s voice is distinct and the tone is well-considered, as in “None of them are wearing life jackets and most of them are struggling to stay on the raft.”</p> <p>Stylistic choices are specific and frequently effective: “We all have the power to make the change. Let’s start today.”</p>	<p>Pf</p>

In this picture we see children from the Philippines floating on a raft to get to school. The clothes they wear are very generic and cheap looking too leading me to assume that their families are rather poor. To me this shows by contrast that we as Canadians are very privileged. I believe that the statement this picture is trying to make to me is that as a Canadian student I am very lucky.

I compare this picture to my own school life back in elementary school and it makes me really see how good I had it. When I had to get up in the morning I had to shower and eat breakfast which at the time seemed like a chore. These kids probably don't have the chance to do either, and that can't be good for their ability to learn and their overall health. Perhaps the most striking difference is the means of actually getting to school. I always hated having to be on time at the bus stop to just sit and wait for it. These kids however have to take a raft down a river with a high chance of drowning. If I could go back in time and talk to myself I would scold the younger me for his ignorance and selfishness.

The saddening part is that you can tell that they are very poor and this is realistically their only means of getting to school. It makes me wonder though, what becomes of them after school? How could they ever pay for post secondary schooling to get jobs that break them out of this cycle of poverty? For me it's easy, I can take out student loans and work my way through college. But for them there is no social safety net and they can't pay for schooling in the pennies they'd make through working. I can't take for granted these opportunities given to me

simply because I'm Canadian, not when people like these who would work their hardest in school can't even get a foot in the door.

Typically when I do a visual response I try to take the topic and compare it to my own life in a way that shows an experience I've had is similar. For this topic I can't though, the experiences these young children have are completely alien to me. To even try to do so would be incredibly ignorant and undermine the hardships of these poor kids. The only similarity is that we go to school. But even at that my school life is safe and almost guaranteed, while these kids face the harsh reality of the possibility that they could perish or not be able to return the next day. This picture is a real eye opener for me and it shows how lucky I really am, something I don't think would be fair to take for granted anymore.

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EXAMPLE PAPER—Excellent (E)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
Ideas and Impressions (E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student’s perceptions are insightful and carefully considered. Support is precise, purposefully chosen, and strongly connected to the student’s ideas and impressions. 	<p>The student’s perceptions that “I can’t take for granted these opportunities given to me simply because I’m Canadian, not when people like these who would work their hardest in school can’t even get a foot in the door” are insightful and carefully considered.</p> <p>Support is precise, purposefully chosen, and strongly connected to the student’s ideas and impressions, as in “Perhaps the most striking difference is the means of actually getting to school. I always hated having to be on time at the bus stop to just sit and wait for it. These kids however have to take a raft down a river with a high chance of drowning,” “For me it’s easy, I can take out student loans and work my way through college. But for them there is no social safety net and they can’t pay for schooling in the pennies they’d make through working,” and “Typically when I do a visual response I try to take the topic and compare it to my own life in a way that shows an experience I’ve had is similar. For this topic I can’t though, the experiences these young children have are completely alien to me. To even try to do so would be incredibly ignorant and undermine the hardships of these poor kids.”</p>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response is skillfully developed. 	<p>The response is skillfully developed from the student’s discussion of how “The clothes they wear are very generic and cheap looking too leading me to assume that their families are rather poor. To me this shows by contrast that we as Canadians are very privileged,” to the assertion that “When I had to get up in the morning I had to shower and eat breakfast which at the time seemed like a chore. These kids probably don’t have the chance to do either, and that can’t be good for their ability to learn and their overall health,” through to the conclusion that “The only similarity is that we go to school. But even at that my school life is safe and almost guaranteed, while these kids face the harsh reality of the possibility that they could perish or not be able to return the next day.”</p>	E

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE	SCORE
<p>Presentation (E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student’s voice is engaging and the tone is confident. • Stylistic choices are precise and effective. 	<p>The student’s voice is engaging and the tone is confident, as in “If I could go back in time and talk to myself I would scold the younger me for his ignorance and selfishness” and “The saddening part is that you can tell that they are very poor and this is realistically their only means of getting to school.”</p> <p>“Stylistic choices are precise and effective: “It makes me wonder though, what becomes of them after school? How could they ever pay for post secondary schooling to get jobs that break them out of this cycle of poverty?”</p>	<p>E</p>