



Shared by Noa Daniel
@noasbobs

Friday Photo

Decoding Photographs



Step 1- Describe- Look at the **facts**/what do you see? **Add a yellow sticker**

- colours
- time of day
- the people
- the landscape
- the shapes
- textures

Step 2- Analyse- ask questions **Add a blue sticker**

1. Look at the decisions the photographer made;
 - camera angles
 - lighting
2. What draws your eye immediately?
3. What is going on in the background?
 - Are there any recognizable buildings or landmarks?
 - What is the overall mood or feeling?
 - Is there any writing in the photograph?

Step 3- Interpret- Use the descriptions and questions to infer what is happening **Add an orange sticker**

1. Use the information you have (description and analysis) to **draw conclusions** about the photograph. Use all the clues and connect them together so they make sense.
2. Can you see what exactly is happening in the photograph?
3. What is the photographer trying to say? What's the big idea?
 - Why did the photographer choose this angle?
 - What is left out of the photograph?

Step 4- Evaluate- Title the work by synthesizing what you've learned **Add a green sticker**

1. What do you think about this work?
2. Make a judgment about the value, significance and importance of the photograph.
3. What would you title/name the photograph?

Adapted from McCoy, Laura. "Decoding Photographs." *Collections Canada*. Government of Canada, n.d. Web. 15 Aug. 2013.