Analyzing Photographs

What’s in a picture?

- Who, what, where: What can we say about the event or action the photograph records?
- Subject matter: Why did the photographer include these particular elements? What don’t you see in the picture?
- Composition & framing: How do people or objects fill the frame?
- What’s in focus (or not)? Where does your eye go as you look at the photograph?
- Capture: What might have happened just before or after this picture was taken? What kind of moment is captured?
- Perspective: Why did the photographer take the picture from this angle?
- What would the scene have looked like from another vantage point — from left, right, behind, above, or below?
The murder of Emmett Till

Jet Magazine, September 15, 1955
Robert Frank, New Orleans, Louisiana (1955)
Will Counts, Little Rock, Arkansas (September, 1957)
Charles Moore, Montgomery, Alabama (1958)
Arrest of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Charles Moore, Montgomery, Alabama (1960)
Racial Violence
Charles Moore, Birmingham, Alabama (1963)
Police dogs attack protestors
Charles Moore, Selma, Alabama (1965)
Danny Lyon, (1960)
Self-portrait with my Nikon F Reflex at the University of Chicago
Danny Lyon, Waveland, Mississippi (1964)
Bob Moses at a SNCC conference
Danny Lyon, Greenwood, Mississippi (1963)
Danny Lyon, Atlanta (1963)

Woman holds off a mob
Danny Lyon, Birmingham, Alabama (1963)
Taylor Washington arrested
Bob Adelman, Louisiana (1964)
The Rev. Joe Carter, West Feliciana Parish
Bob Adelman, Birmingham, Alabama (1963)
No Man is an Island, Kelly Ingram Park
Bob Adelman, (1965)  
“Protestor”
Bob Adelman, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Selma to Montgomery march in Alabama (1965)
Bruce Davidson, (March, 1965)  
“Vote,” Selma Voting Rights
Bruce Davidson, (1964)
Police dragging a man
Moneta Sleet, Jr., (April 9, 1968)
Coretta Scott King with her daughter Bernice, attends the funeral of her husband MLK Jr.
Roy DeCarava, Washington, DC (1963)
Mississippi Freedom Marcher
Roy DeCarava, (1964)

Five Men
James Karales, (1965)

Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights
Steve Schapiro, (1968)
Martin Luther King’s Motel Room Several Hours After He Was Shot
Janine Wiedel, Black Panther targeted during riots in Berkeley, CA, 1969; AP, Mexico City Olympics, 1968; Huey Newton, Minister of Defense and co-founder, Black Panther Party; AP, Angela Davis, 1968
For Further Exploration

The U.S. Civil Rights Movement, [http://photos.state.gov/galleries/usinfo-photo/39/civil_rights_07/1.html](http://photos.state.gov/galleries/usinfo-photo/39/civil_rights_07/1.html)

The Civil Rights Digital Library, [http://crdl.usg.edu/?Welcome](http://crdl.usg.edu/?Welcome)


