

2) **Visual Analysis Essay:** Students will select one photograph (from a pre-selected list or selected by the student with instructor approval) that depicts an international event, tradition, or geographical landmark. Students will research the event to understand the context of the photograph and compose a visual analysis essay that will include a clear and vivid description of the photograph, an informed explanation of the photograph context, and a brief reaction that evaluates the photograph from an observer's perspective.

Purpose of the assignment:

Demonstrate an ability to describe and analyze a visual image accurately, using both sensory details and research to enhance writing.

Assignment Resources:

-Computer

-MLA Handbook, 7th ed.

-Approved photograph list:

[Image 1](#)

Citation: Chitrakar, Navesh. *Rice Harvest Festival, Kathmandu*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Asia

[Image 2](#)

Citation: Repasy, Zsolt. *Busó Celebration, Hungary*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Europe

[Image 3](#)

Citation: Ates, Merve. *Lost in Thought, Istanbul*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Europe

[Image 4](#)

Citation: China Daily/Reuters. *Wei Sang Festival, China*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Asia

[Image 5](#)

Citation: Al-Fetori, Esam Omran. *Ghat Festival, Libya*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Africa

[Image 6](#)

Citation: Kanojia, Sanjay. *Vermicelli, India*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Asia

[Image 7](#)

Citation: Williams, Graeme. *Afrikaans Language Monument, South Africa*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of

2014. National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Africa

[Image 8](#)

Citation: Reichle, Steffen. *Butterflies in Bolivia*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Latin America

[Image 9](#)

Citation: Iwago, Mitsuaki. *Kangaroos in New South Wales, Australia*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014.

National Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Oceania

[Image 10](#)

Citation: Stanmeyer, John. *Madain Salih, Saudi Arabia*. 2014. Photograph. Travel 365: Best of 2014. National

Geographic Traveler. Web. 14 May 2015.

World region: Middle East

Note: Students who wish to choose their own photograph will be instructed to choose from [National Geographic Online Photographs: People and Culture section](#). 500+ photos. Students will need to provide a citation for the photograph they select, using this MLA citation template:

Citing a Photograph on a Website (MLA):

Last, First M. *Photograph Title*. Year Created. Photograph. Website Title. Website Publisher.

Web. Date Month Year Accessed.

Procedure:

1. The student will select an image from provided examples or from National Geographic Online.
2. The student will observe the image and write down observations regarding composition, color, lines, space, and light.
3. The student will identify the cultural event, landmark, or custom and conduct research to help describe the photograph accurately and avoid misrepresentations.
4. The student will construct a multi-paragraph essay that analyzes specific details from the image, provides an accurate explanation of the photograph's context, and evaluates their observation experience.
5. After completing a draft of the essay, the student will make sufficient revisions to produce a well-organized, well-developed, mechanically and grammatically sound composition.

Assessment:

1. Students will be assessed on the clarity of the thesis statement and how they are able to support it based on their understanding of the image.
2. Students will be assessed on their ability to describe the photograph using sensory details.
3. Students will be assessed on their ability to research a cultural event, custom, or landmark and use their findings to support their thesis.
4. The assignment will be assessed on grammar mechanics, writing style and MLA documentation, including a properly cited photograph and a Works Cited page.

Time Recommended: two weeks