

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21A.348 / CMS.835 Photography and Truth  
Spring 2008

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

**21A.348**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY AND TRUTH**  
**Spring 2008**

**FIRST ASSIGNMENT SHEET:**  
**MINI-ESSAYS/REPORTS**

You are to write three very short essay/reports, no less than 1 ¼ pages and no more than two pages (double-spaced, normal margins, normal font size, no extra spaces between paragraphs). Include a photograph if relevant.

Choose two from A and one from B or vice-versa:

A. Some aspect of photography in “real life” that you read about or observe. It can be a recent practice, such as having a photographer hide in the bushes to record a marriage proposal, or a recent event in which photography played a part, or claims made about photography or a photograph, or the impact of an exhibit, or....

B. Photography or a photograph as it appears in a novel, short story, play, or film. The first week’s reading in Edwards has several examples. Often a photograph will play a key role in a detective story or a novel of another sort, talking about facts, or hidden truths, or family relationships.

For both A and B, you are to consider questions (but not all of them at once) such as:

- why effects does photography (or a photograph) have or are attributed to it?
- how is photography understood or constituted?
- what is photography connected with in life?
- what does photography mean?

In any case, try to briefly make sense of the example, hopefully at least partly in terms of ideas from the course. Choose examples because they are interesting and you can say interesting things about them. (You can always try them out on me ahead of time.)

Deadlines for the mini-essays are spaced out over the first three-quarters of the term.

1. Week 4
2. Week 7
3. Week 9

You are encouraged, however, to write your examples up and turn them in as soon as you find them. We will discuss some of the cases or examples in class.