This resource page contains useful resources about Annie Leibovitz’s work as well as about photography as an art form. It includes links to useful articles, websites, books, lesson plans and classroom activities. All the links in this document are active and will take you to the relevant linked resources.
About Annie Leibovitz

“Photographer Annie Leibovitz was born October 2, 1949, in Waterbury, Connecticut. In 1970 she took a job at *Rolling Stone* magazine. In 1983 she began working for the entertainment magazine *Vanity Fair*. During the late 1980s, Leibovitz started to work on a number of high-profile advertising campaigns. From the 1990s to the present, she has been publishing and exhibiting her work.” (Excerpt from Biography.com)

Annie Leibovitz’s Work

- Annie Leibovitz’s career timeline at a glance:
  [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amERICANmASTERS/EPISODES/annIE-LIEboVITZ/career-timELINE/17/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amERICANmASTERS/EPISODES/annIE-LIEboVITZ/career-timELINE/17/)
- Photo gallery of Annie Leibovitz’s work:
  [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amERICANmASTERS/EPISODES/annIE-LIEboVITZ/photo-timELINE/19/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/amERICANmASTERS/EPISODES/annIE-LIEboVITZ/photo-timELINE/19/)
- A link to all of Annie Leibovitz books: [http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/annie-leibovitz/258058](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/annie-leibovitz/258058)

Annie Leibovitz: Interviews and Appearances

- Annie Leibovitz’s interview with the New York Times Book Editor Bill Goldstein:
- Annie Leibovitz’s interview on David Letterman Show:
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fd8K1eZubA&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fd8K1eZubA&feature=player_embedded)
- A teen journalist’s interview with Annie Leibovitz:
Useful Books

- Criticizing photographs: An introduction to understanding images - By Terry Barrett. This book is available at Amazon
- The art and science of portraiture – By Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot and Jessica Hoffmann-Davis. This book is available at Amazon

Useful Worksheets, Handouts and In-Class Activity Ideas

- Photo Analysis Worksheet 1
- Photo Analysis Worksheet 2
- Art Criticism Worksheet <link to pdf on pages blog>
- Elements of Design Handout
- How to make 23 types of pinhole cameras

Essays, Research Papers and Book Chapters

- Go to the International Center for Photography’s page to access their teacher resources page and their special publication – Focus on Photography – a Curriculum Guide. To download individual chapters visit:
  1. Chapter 1: Visual Literacy
  2. Chapter 2: Teaching Photography
  3. Chapter 3: Curriculum Connections – Part One and Part Two
  4. Chapter 4: Lesson plans and Activities
- Use this insightful essay by John Berger about Understanding a Photograph.
- To access the introductory chapter from Robert Adam’s book “Why People Photograph” visit camramirez.com
- A journal paper published in Educational Researcher titled – “Critical appraisal of portraiture as a method of educational research” – by Fenwick English
Useful Photography Websites

- Visit [http://click.si.edu/Default.aspx](http://click.si.edu/Default.aspx) which is a website by the Smithsonian Photography Initiative that has a collection of articles about how photography shapes our culture and lives.
- Visit [http://www.photomuse.org/](http://www.photomuse.org/) which is a resource for scholarship in the history of photography.
- Visit [http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/brady/intro/cont4.htm](http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/brady/intro/cont4.htm) which is a useful resource for information about photography techniques and processes.

Useful Photography Terms

The list below is from the handout created by Perin Gurel which is available at this link→ [Reading Photographs](#)

**Basic Vocabulary**

1. **Abstract**: an image that emphasizes formal elements (line, shape, etc) rather than specific, recognizable objects.
2. **Representational**: an image which shows recognizable objects.
3. **Content**: the subject, topic or information captured in a photograph.
4. **Expressive**: concerned with communicating emotion.
5. **Geometric shape**: simple rectilinear or curvilinear shapes found in geometry, such as circles, squares, triangles, etc.
6. **Organic shape**: shapes based on natural objects such as trees, mountains, leaves, etc.
7. **Subject**: the main object or person(s) in a photograph.
8. **Theme**: a unifying or dominant idea in one work of art or in a collection of works.
9. **Intention**: reason(s) why the artist made a work of art.
10. **Documentary photography**: photographs whose main purpose is to record a place, person(s) or event.
11. **Landscape**: an image that portrays the natural environment.
12. **Portrait**: an image that portrays an individual or individuals.
Visual Elements

1. **Focus**: what areas appear clearest or sharpest in the photograph? What do not?
2. **Light**: what areas of the photograph are most highlighted? Are there any shadows? Does the photograph allow you to guess the time of day? Is the light natural or artificial? Harsh or soft? Reflected or direct?
3. **Line**: are there objects in the photograph that act as lines? Are they straight, curvy, thin, thick? Do the lines create direction in the photograph? Do they outline? Do the lines show movement or energy?
4. **Shape**: do you see geometric or organic shapes? What are they?
5. **Space**: is there depth to the photograph or does it seem shallow? What creates this appearance? Are there important negative spaces in addition to positive spaces? Is there depth created by spatial illusions?
6. **Texture**: if you could touch the surface of the photograph how would it feel? How do the objects in the picture look like they would feel?
7. **Value**: is there a range of tones from dark to light? Where is the darkest value? Where is the lightest?

Composition of the Photograph

1. **Angle**: the vantage point from which the photograph was taken.
2. **Background**: the part of a scene or picture that is or seems to be toward the back.
3. **Balance**: the distribution of visual elements in a Photograph. *Symmetrical balance* distributes visual elements evenly in an image. *Asymmetrical balance* is found when visual elements are not evenly distributed in an image.
4. **Central focus**: the objects(s) which appears most prominently and/or most clearly focused in a photograph.
5. **Composition**: the arrangement or structure of the formal elements that make up an image.
6. **Contour**: the outline of an object or shape.
7. **Contrast**: strong visual differences between light and dark, varying textures, sizes, etc.
8. **Framing**: what the photographer has placed within the boundaries of the photograph.
9. **Setting**: actual physical surroundings or scenery whether real or artificial.
10. **Vantage point**: the place from which a photographer takes a photograph