
My “Beautiful System” Project

Due: Tuesday, 9.13.2022

The Mission

You will design a photo essay that tells a story introducing our classroom community to a specific system that you find beautiful.

The Essential Questions

How are systems created and defined? How do systems shape the world? What is the role of the individual within a system? **(10th Grade, all year)**

What makes a system beautiful?

Definitions of “System”

- ❖ A set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network.
- ❖ A set of principles or procedures according to which something is done; an organized scheme or method.

The Requirements

- ❖ You will craft one **Vignette** (app. 500 words) that **tells a story about you engaging a system that you consider beautiful**. This could be a system you participate in every day, or observe and admire from afar.
 - ❖ In the story, include a strong justification for **why you consider the system beautiful**.
 - ❖ After you have written the story, you will **select images to accompany your writing pieces**.
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- ❖ Finally, you'll use the above to craft a **3-5 minute long narrated** video "photo essay."

One example method for making a Photo Essay

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Do it in any way that works for you!

(As long the end-product is a link that we can access!)

Write A STORY! (Example below)


The teams shook hands and the Fugees quickly ran to the bench for water and oranges, which awaited them in two white plastic grocery bags. A few moments later, the referee approached. He looked to be in his late fifties, white, with a graying mustache. He asked Luma if he could address her players. Luma hesitated. She was uncomfortable handing over her team's attention to anyone, especially a stranger. A little warily, she summoned her team, who gathered in front of the referee some ten yards from their bench.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I'd like to thank you. You played the ball the entire game, and you didn't take any cheap shots. They got frustrated and started hacking, and you didn't retaliate. So I'd like to commend you on your sportsmanship." The referee paused for a moment and swallowed hard.

"And that was one of the most beautiful games of soccer I've ever seen," he said.

Argue that the system (in this case, soccer) is *beautiful!*

"Unlike basketball, baseball, or football, games that reset after each play, soccer unfolds fluidly and continuously. To understand how a goal was scored, you have to work back through the action—the sequences of passes and decisions, the movement of the players away from the action who reappear unexpectedly in empty space to create or



waste opportunities—all the way back to the first touch. If that goal was scored by a young refugee from Liberia, off an assist from a boy from southern Sudan, who was set up by a player from Burundi or a Kurd from Iraq—on a field in Georgia, U.S.A., no less—understanding its origins would mean following the thread of causation back in time to events that long preceded the first whistle.”

Project examples from previous years

[Example Folder](#)

The Rubric

- ❖ **Design:** The visuals are well chosen to accompany the story.
- ❖ **Knowledge:** The system is well described, and there is a *clear* argument for its beauty.
- ❖ **Application:** The storytelling is detailed.
- ❖ **Presentation:** The voiceover is clear and expressive.
- ❖ **Process:** [Self-Graded, according to Process Reflection Sheet.](#)