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### “The Thing Itself” Written Assignment #2

When reading “The Thing Itself” by Bill Jay, I was able to understand more about my relationship to the subject matter I am photographing. Bill Jay speaks of the relationship between the camera and subject matter and how that can relate to the artist and how they develop their interest in the subject matter they photograph. He indicates that subject is one of the most important parts of a photograph and that we need to photograph what we have an interest in. Bill Jay asks what subject will be able to hold our attention and what will maintain our enthusiasm and tells readers that it is important to photograph what we are interested in. Selecting a subject is one of the most important jobs a photographer has. By choosing a specific subject, the photographer is saying to the viewers that they thought it to be the most important and interesting subject and that they greatly appreciate it. Subject is also important because it can prompt an emotional or intellectual response from the viewer, which is what photographers try to achieve with their images. Bill Jay is emphasizing the significance of subject because it is the fundamental principle of photography. A photographer’s goal when choosing a subject is to have an interest in the subject matter and also to create a connection and have your viewers respond to your photograph due to the subject matter.

Some variable such as framing, focus, exposure, lighting and several others can drastically change the subject in a photograph and the feeling a photograph has, creating a more captivating photograph. When exploring shadows more in this assignment I am understanding

how to take better photographs or shadows in the future, either by changing the camera's orientation, or excluding extra information in the photograph. Yet I have really enjoyed using shadows because they give off a mood that I really enjoy that is more mysterious and not as clean. With some of my photographs for this assignment I have been going with the theme of darker, underneath, not as clean, and more abstract concerning the picture space. I have really enjoyed it because I am able to create more of a connection with my subjects because they aren't commonly photographed. I have also set up some scenes such as with Shannon in the slide holding up her camera. I have been working on developing more of a relationship with my subject matter and I am becoming fonder of my photographs as a result.

In this assignment, I have played around with shadows, darker images, and framing. I have enjoyed using framing in my photographs and I have been able to explore different types of framing, such as circular framing with Shannon in the slide, or the framing of a sewer, or even the framing of a lamp. Framing my subject makes it feel that it has more importance and also keeps the viewer's eye in the frame so they do not wander out. This can help create more of a response from viewers to my photographs. Also with this second assignment I have tried to explore different exposures and bracketing in order to perfect my photographs because exposure plays such a large role in photography and in my other assignment I have been underexposing slightly.

In this assignment, I have been more aware of lighting, picture space, and exposure and I believe that helped me create better photographs. I am much happier with these photographs and I have learned how to create better compositions and prints in future assignments. Reading "The Thing Itself" was also very helpful because I am able to understand the importance of the subject in my photograph and through technical aspects such as framing, lighting, exposure and many

more aspects I can control how my subject matter will look in my prints and create the look and feel that I want to.