


9-23-2014

Photos That Changed the World: TED Talk Annotated Resource List

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Recommended Citation

Riehl, Chris, "Photos That Changed the World: TED Talk Annotated Resource List" (2014). *Undergraduate Research Award*. Paper 20.
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Mr. Basham

University Experience 175

23 September 2014

Annotated Resource List

TED Talk Information

I watched the “Photos That Changed the World” Ted Talk by Jonathan Klein. In the talk, Klein described how select photos can have a major emotional impact on people and can often spur them to action. One such example of this would be some of the iconic images of the Vietnam War which he showed on a screen behind him for a visual aid. The images of war were very impactful on Americans who, before the Vietnam War, had never been shown the graphic images of war in their living rooms. Yes, war film was circulated in World War II and the Korean War, but it was heavily edited to show very few, if any, dead American bodies. However, the images of the Vietnam War were graphic, violent, and shocking to many American citizens. Klein uses this example to show the power that one photo can have. The emotional impact can be great if the photo captures a particularly sensitive event.

Klein also highlights how photos of dead gorillas being hauled through the jungle by poachers created a popular movement against the poaching of gorillas in Africa. Klein also gives the example of the photos which were taken in Haiti after the devastating earth quake. All of the photos of the ruins which the earth quake created prompted massive and coordinated relief efforts by more than dozens of countries. I think that if the news of the earth quake was only passed by word of mouth, it would not be as effective in gaining international aid. However, being able to show the devastation via photos is much more effective in playing to the emotions of people and this showed in how much aid was sent to the island.

Annotated Resource List

Book Source

London, Barbara. 2005. *Photography*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

This book would be very helpful in understanding the theory and process behind good and effective photography. Lighting, angle, perspective, and many other variables are detailed which are important in understanding the best way to take good photos. It would make sense to have this resource when writing a paper about photography.

Bogre, Michelle. 2012. *Photography as Activism: Images for Social Change*. Amsterdam; Boston: Focal Press.

This book provides many more examples of how photographs have made an impact on society. One specific example the author gives is Ansel Adams using photographs of western landscapes

in order to prompt the creation of the U.S. National Park System. More examples to support the idea that photography can be used to make an impact is very valuable to this project.

Farmer, Paul. 2012. *Haiti After the Earthquake*. New York: PublicAffairs.

This book gives more in-depth detail on the earth quake in Haiti which Klein references in the TED Talk. Having this source would enable me to be more knowledgeable about the catastrophe and be able to back Klein's claims up with official facts and statistics.

Reference Source

Hilton, Jonathan. 1997. *Action Photography*. New York: Watson-Guption Publications.

This reference source details many of the ins and outs of taking effective action shots. It does not go into great detail about staged photos but instead focuses on the action shot. Action shots are the photos talked about in the TED Talk and therefore this would be a very helpful source to have.

Internet Source

Klein, Jonathan. 2010. "Photos That Changed the World." Last modified February 2010, http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_klein_photos_that_changed_the_world.

This source is the actual TED Talk which is obviously a very important resource for this project. Klein provide many thought-provoking ideas about how photography can spur change in today's society. He definitely provides great insight into the topic.

Scholarly Journal Article

Pp. 4-16. Richard, Chalfen. 1987. *Snapshot Versions of Life*. University of Wisconsin Press.

This article details how the rise of personal cameras has made it possible for usual people who are not reporters to be able to take photos. While this is written in 1987, it still has pertinent information. The same idea can be said about today's use of smart phones to take pictures and videos of key, impactful events.

