

Lens and Ledger

Compare how genres shape an account of hardship.

ELA.11.R.3 "Reading Across Genres"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three sentences that explain what a photograph or a report shows or leaves out, then write P beside photograph evidence and R beside report evidence. These marks will help you compare how each genre shapes the same subject.

Two Views of Migration

- ① During the Great Depression, photographer Dorothea Lange worked for a federal agency that documented rural poverty. In March 1936, she photographed Florence Owens Thompson and several of Thompson's children at a pea-pickers' camp near Nipomo, California. The best-known image, later titled *Migrant Mother*, places Thompson's tense face at the center while two children hide their faces against her shoulders. The close view gives viewers a personal encounter with hardship. Yet the photograph leaves out the camp's wider conditions, the failed pea crop, and the reasons many families had traveled west. A photograph can preserve a moment without supplying a full explanation.
- ② Government records from the era approached the crisis differently. Reports produced for relief agencies counted workers, listed camp needs, and requested money for food, sanitation, and temporary housing. Their tables and formal language helped officials compare conditions across many communities. However, a column of numbers could not show Thompson's expression or suggest how it felt to wait for work. The report genre served administrative decisions, so it emphasized data that could be measured and acted upon. Lange's photograph served as public documentation as well, but its visual focus could stir concern in ways a budget request rarely could.
- ③ Reading the two genres together creates a fuller account of migrant hardship. The photograph directs attention to one mother and makes the human cost immediate. The relief report broadens the view by showing needs that affected many workers and by identifying practical responses. Neither source is complete alone. The photograph may lead a viewer to generalize from one family, while the report may reduce people to categories. A careful reader asks what each source was designed to do, notices what it includes, and uses the limits of one genre to guide questions for the other.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the close framing of Migrant Mother shape a viewer's understanding of migrant hardship? What important information does this framing leave out?

2 Explain why the relief reports use tables, formal language, and measurable data instead of personal expressions or feelings.

3 What does a reader learn by considering both the photograph and the relief report that neither source could provide alone?

4 Why might relying only on the photograph or only on the report lead to an incomplete understanding of the crisis?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an event in your school or community. In three sentences, explain how a photograph and an official report would represent the event differently. Name one detail each genre would likely include and one limit of using only one source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three sentences that explain what a photograph or a report shows or leaves out, then write P beside photograph evidence and R beside report evidence. These marks will help you compare how each genre shapes the same subject. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the close framing of Migrant Mother shape a viewer's understanding of migrant hardship? What important information does this framing leave out?	It makes one family's hardship feel personal and immediate, but it leaves out broader camp conditions, the failed crop, and reasons families traveled west.
2	Explain why the relief reports use tables, formal language, and measurable data instead of personal expressions or feelings.	The reports were meant to help officials compare needs and make decisions about relief, so they emphasized information that could be measured and acted upon.
3	What does a reader learn by considering both the photograph and the relief report that neither source could provide alone?	The reader gains both a personal view of one family's human hardship and a broader view of the needs affecting many migrant workers.
4	Why might relying only on the photograph or only on the report lead to an incomplete understanding of the crisis?	The photograph can cause readers to generalize from one family, while the report can reduce people and experiences to categories and numbers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a storm floods a school parking lot, a photograph could show students carrying backpacks through standing water and make the disruption immediate. An official report could list the rainfall, damaged areas, closure time, and repair cost. The photograph might not explain the extent of damage, while the report might not show how students experienced the event.

Accept responses that compare the genres' purposes, included details, and limitations using passage evidence. For Part 3, accept any plausible event if the response has exactly three sentences and addresses both genres plus a limitation.