Framing Removal

Tracing perspective through wartime sources.

12.T.C.2 "Authors & Speakers: Evaluate how authors' and/or speakers' perspectives influence texts and how circumstances shape their creation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or details that show Lange's or Myer's perspective, and circle details about the circumstances that shaped each source.

Two Views of Incarceration

1 In 1942, photographer Dorothea Lange documented Japanese American families as the United States forced them from West Coast homes under Executive Order 9066. Lange had been hired by the War Relocation Authority, the federal agency overseeing removal, yet her images often emphasize the human cost. One photograph shows children at a San Francisco school reciting the Pledge of Allegiance shortly before their removal. Lange framed the children in orderly rows, inviting viewers to notice the conflict between patriotic ritual and the government action about to separate them from their homes.

2 Her earlier Depression-era work had focused on people facing poverty, a history that helps explain her attention to disruption and vulnerability. During the war, the Army impounded many of Lange's photographs, and most were not publicly available until decades later. That censorship limited her immediate audience and prevented the images from challenging official claims at the moment of removal. Still, her access to schools, families, and assembly centers gave her a record that later viewers could use to question the policy. Her perspective did not make the photographs neutral, but it directed viewers toward lives official reports could minimize.

3 In contrast, War Relocation Authority director Dillon S. Myer defended the camps in public statements as a wartime necessity. He highlighted housing, schools, and work opportunities, language that presented the agency as orderly and protective. Myer spoke while responsible for administering the policy and while the nation was at war, circumstances that encouraged reassurance rather than an account of coerced removal. His institutional position shaped what he stressed and what he omitted. Reading Myer's statements beside Lange's photographs shows why a text's purpose, audience, and creation conditions matter when evaluating the perspective it offers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What perspective on removal does Lange's school photograph encourage viewers to consider? Use one detail from the passage.

2. How did wartime censorship shape the effect of Lange's photographs when they were created?

3. How does Myer's emphasis differ from Lange's emphasis? Identify what each source brings forward.

4. Which circumstances of Myer's role most likely led him to use reassuring language? Explain your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one 90-110 word paragraph comparing two imagined texts about a school board's decision to remove a book from a library: a board member's public statement and a student's letter to the local newspaper. Identify each writer's perspective and explain how audience, role, or circumstances shape one choice each writer makes.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 12 · 12.T.C.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or details that show Lange's or Myer's perspective, and circle details about the circumstances that shaped each source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What perspective on removal does Lange's school photograph encourage viewers to consider? Use one detail from the passage.	**It encourages viewers to consider the human cost and the conflict between American patriotism and forced removal. The children recite the Pledge of Allegiance shortly before being removed.**
2	How did wartime censorship shape the effect of Lange's photographs when they were created?	**The Army impounded many photographs, and most were unavailable to the public until decades later. This limited their immediate audience and their ability to challenge official claims during removal.**
3	How does Myer's emphasis differ from Lange's emphasis? Identify what each source brings forward.	**Myer emphasizes housing, schools, and work opportunities to portray the agency as orderly and protective. Lange emphasizes disruption, vulnerability, and the effects of removal on families.**
4	Which circumstances of Myer's role most likely led him to use reassuring language? Explain your answer.	**Myer was responsible for administering the policy during wartime. His institutional role and the wartime setting encouraged him to reassure the public rather than describe coerced removal.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The board member describes the removal as a careful response to parents, stressing review procedures and age suitability. Because she speaks at a public meeting and represents the board, she chooses formal language that reassures voters and avoids the book's disputed ideas. The student calls the decision censorship and describes losing a story that helped him understand his family. Writing to a local newspaper after the vote, he uses personal details to persuade neighbors that the decision has consequences. Their different roles and audiences explain why one text stresses responsibility while the other stresses loss.

Accept responses that accurately connect a source's language or selected details to its perspective and creation circumstances. For the open response, accept varied viewpoints when the student explains how role, audience, or situation shapes each writer's choices.