Introduction: context 78 words

The famous saying “a picture is worth a thousand words” is incredibly true when it comes to journalism. Journalist can use pictures to summarise stories into a single image by carefully manipulating several key elements of photography. Within this essay I will discuss key elements in reference to “a life in death” to demonstrate how these many techniques can be used to effectively communicate a story with discussion of potential ethical issues that could arise with the photo.

Content – 116 words

“A life in death” by photographer Nancy Borowick focuses on a couple, man and woman, who appear in a hospital chairs, shown by clinical benches and hospital equipment. Upon closer inspection, the chemotherapy chairs and IV apparatus become apparent, leading the viewer to believe that these patients are fighting cancer. The two seem content by being with each other even as they are receiving their treatment, despite being unwell. Neither appear upset by their condition, in fact, they appear quite relaxed by reading a magazine and having a conversation. However, the composition, lighting and colour choices really set the emotion and tone for this photograph, which detail the story that the photo is attempting to describe.

* Composition

Composition: Symmetry, front on image aligned with the subjects, entirely in focus: want the viewer to see the

* Lighting 104

The lighting style used in this particular photo uses natural lighting from the window of the hospital room causing the side lighting seen in the photograph. This lighting causes one side of the subjects to be completely illuminated where the other side is darkened. This increases a dramatic element to the picture by bringing out more texture in the subject’s faces. Despite the darkness and shadows thrown by the low natural lighting, this photo isn’t too dark to evoke a deeply sad sombre mood. Instead the lightness contrasting the dark elicits a sentimental or bittersweet melancholy, teamed up with the black and white photography.

<http://jcr.oxfordjournals.org.ezproxy.library.uq.edu.au/content/jcr/41/4/1015.full.pdf>

* Colour

Black and white, generally linked with negative emotions. At the end summerise a sentence stating what the photo means, eg cancer patients side by side, not scared by death but still showing how sad cancer diagnosis usually is.

* News value

Human interest: evokes emotion, dying couple. Probably more likely as the photo is ocused on them and not just the general idea of cancer patients, but rather personalises this couple.

?? Proximity (based on cancer treatment): cancer is highly common in first world countries therefore having cancer patients staring us right in the face is all too common.

Ethics:

Is the photo correctly depicting how they want to be known/remembered?

Editting?

Conclusion

**Reference list**