647words so far.

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 participating in conversation. Additionally the composition, lighting and colour choices add to 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 -word 136

A photographer’s choice of colouring is a major tool for manipulating the mood of a photograph. In “a Life in Death”, the black and white colouring choice adds a greater emotional response than it presumably would with the natural colour. Black and white colouring is a common choice for manipulating the mood of a photograph, where this causes a shift from positive to negative moods. In this particular example, limiting colours to black and white creates an almost sombre mood which is perfect as it adds the required effect and keeps the focus on the main subjects in the photo. This photograph shows that the subjects are not necessarily scared of death as they have one another, yet it still reflects and conveys the negative side of the illness while they face a horribly painful treatment.

News value- words 195

Ultimately, through the use of composition, colour and lighting techniques, this photo tells the story of a married couple undergoing chemotherapy, not seemingly scared by the medical treatment they are receiving or the possibility of death. For multiple reasons this image conveys a story similar to what would be shown in a human interest news piece. Firstly, the focus on the couple by using front-on angles, use of focused aperture and symmetry personify the characters in the image, making the story about them and not a story on chemotherapy or cancer. Additionally, the use of colour and lighting evoke a deep emotional response to an illness that can affect any body. Despite the nature of chemotherapy, the photo is fairly light which also inspires hope, peace or bittersweet emotions which may make the story one of triumph or perseverance. This story makes it evident that the couple both inflicted with the deadly illness. For this reason, readers may be interested and attracted to the underlying story of a couple staying together, battling cancer until the end. This story adds emphasis to how strong the power of a human spirit can be in times of crisis.

Ethics:

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

Editting?

Conclusion

**Reference list**