

# Picture Not Taken

## Production Document

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### The Photograph

Me with my great grandmother, my father's father's mother, Etelvina

### Context

My great grandmother passed away in 2013 which was two years after my last visit to Colombia. I saw a picture of my younger cousin being held by her as a baby and it brought a sense of longing and guilt, that I had appreciated the ability to have my great grandmother in my life for a long period of time when she was still around. I have no concrete memories of spending time with her even though I'm sure it's happened so a photograph would be nice proof that the moment happened.

### What the photo would look like

If the photo had taken place, I would be in my early or mid teen and be standing next to her, with my sister in her late childhood or pre-teens to her otherwise. Because of differences in nutrition, I'd probably be towering over my sister and her despite being 50-60 years her junior.

We'd be standing inside of the living room of the home that she purchased to raise my grandfather and his brothers, that is now currently owned by my great-uncle. The space behind us would have white tiles with white walls and it'd be the early afternoon with the only lighting in the photo being the sun coming in through the main door into the living room. The wall would have photographs, probably of my grandfather and his siblings as children, maybe of my great-grandfather, Hernan. The living room behind us would be furnished with a motley of chairs, one that is upholstered and wood and another that is plastic. Finally, my face would probably be neutral or a fake smile as the photograph would've been forced by my father to commemorate seeing her.

## Project Idea

### Picture Not Taken Is Needed

I could make this picture for this class—Maybe it would feel good in the moment to have that picture but it would leave me with a deeper emptiness—The pain from not having the picture—To try and remove it would be to create something worse.

I need the pain to stay because having it reminds me the importance of being with family while they're still here.

The Picture Not Taken is Needed.

### What Does the Project Look Like?

#### Idea one

I want to make a website—Maybe it's like of a mountain and then the text shows up above it, the user is asked to do something with it, I'm not sure what at this point.

As they click interact with it—the audio plays that describes the text being said on the screen. Maybe some sort of ambient sound that plays in the background, like birds chirping or something idyllic.

#### Idea Two

Similarly still a website though now the text is now completely written out and then you're able to hover over keywords that will show an image that will give context to what I'm speaking on. OR instead of hover, it just links out, leaving the person with the image by itself with no other context to fuddle the meaning of it.

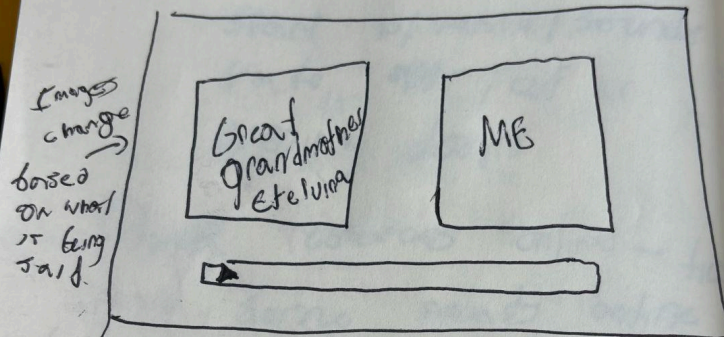
#### Idea Three

Just an audio player on the website that a audience member clicks to start the experience and as it plays, other photos show up that help describe what's going on.

Maybe it could just be two photos, one of my great grandmother and one of me with audio playing at the bottom. I could also provide a transcript for people who might have an issue listening?

## Sketches

Picture Not TAKEN is  
NEED



Maybe I can show photos with different family members that have come as a result of not having the same picture.

It's all about balance - I cannot have those good feelings by themselves, I must also have the pain.

I like this idea and usually placing people in the same space but knowing that they must stay apart.

Why does it have to be a  
website? Why not a video at Prod  
point, - talk, cars. & have a website  
maybe it's just that.

Steps -

look into how audio and image can  
be filmed on the web? #

I should have some assignments finished  
~~step~~ by the end of the weekend.

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shown





## Script

### The Photo....

#### **Large slide by itself**

[Picture of Nico and My Great-Grandmother]

Cursor: 'Grab'

### Audio/Script

My great grandmother, Etelvina, passed away in 2013. During my most recent visit to Colombia, I saw this picture of my cousin being held by her. It brought out feelings of longing and guilt. The time I visited prior was 2010. She was still alive but I was still a begrudging teen. Reflecting on it now is painful, I wish I'd appreciated having the privilege to have lived so long with this family member around and realized how much she'd done for me and documented us together in some way.

[Crops into just showing my grandmother and just showing me and my sister]

Cursor: Not Allowed

### The Photo Not Taken....

If I could have a photo of us together—It'd be during that 2010 visit and it'd feature me, my sister and my great grandmother in the home that she purchased to raise my grandfather and his siblings. I'm standing to her right, in between her and my sister who is still firmly in her childhood. I'd tower over the both of them, as I do with the rest of my family to this day.

It's the early afternoon with the sun coming into the living room, blasting the white tiles and walls with photos of my family hanging on it. The space is furnished with a motley of chairs, one upholstered, another wooden and a final one plastic. My sister and great-grandmother are smiling and I'm scowling as a way to defy my dad for making me take this picture.

### Own Slide

#### **I cannot bring myself to make this picture.**

Photo of the Past with Family Photo recently with family

Cursor: Ew-Resize

### The Photo Not Taken is Needed...

While the idea of this photo fills me with emotion—happiness in fantasy, sadness in the reality. Making the picture to get rid of the latter, would not bring me more of the former as while the picture is not real, the pain of not having it is. That pain hurts but that pain is necessary. It creates the balance for joy. It shows me while the past and the future are linked, they do not have to be the same.

[Cropped picture of wearing braids]

[Cursor: Progress]

The Photo Not Taken that is Not Needed...

In digging deeper into the pain for this, I remember the words of my mentor, Kathleen Sleboda who is Nlaka'pamux who told me that knowing one's ancestors is a lifelong journey. My relationship with my great-grandmother and all my past ancestors extends beyond the photos I have of them. I can feel connected when I wear my braids, when I eat the food that they supported their children making and through preserving to reach my goals with my family in mind, just like she did when she purchased that home for my grandfather. I am a part of her as she is a part of me and nothing, including a photo not taken, can ever take that away.

**It's own slide**

The Photo Not Taken That Is Not Needed Reminds Me...

[Cursor: Grab]

To honor all my relations, those here and those gone. To Etelvina, Gustavo, Rosalba and their ancestors.

Thank you.

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In being given the ability to make this photo a reality in some way, I've realized that I cannot bring myself to do it. Sure, it is painful to not have it and to not have realized sooner how much family would come to mean to me especially as I've learned more about my ancestry but a deeper realization is the need for that pain.

That pain needs to stay, that pain creates the balance for joy. To remove that pain for a second might feel good in the moment, but it can also just leave a deeper emptiness. That pain from the past reminds me to appreciate the family I have moving forward.



## References

on syncing audio and video:

<https://www.sitepoint.com/syncing-css-animations-with-html5-audio/>