Dessa Shapiro

Period 1

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“Owls” 3 paragraph

Susan Sontag’s claim about the overall negative mental impact of photography is limited. Sunan displays her opinion of photography with dated examples such as Jacob Riis’s images of the late 19th century. She directs her focus on a single aspect of photography in relation to society, without looking at the bigger picture. She states her rejection of false mental images held within photographs. “In contrast to the amorous region, which is based on how something looks, understanding is based on how something functions. And functioning takes place in time and must be explained in time”(Susan Sontag) The author suggests that photography creates a mental misconception when used as a reference to convey an image. She uses a loose example of an organization to show a surface-level scene. When in reality there is more depth and story behind a picture. There is truth in her argument about the false assumptions created by certain photographs and the negative influence of photos used to support false news and consumerism. However, overall her concussion is false because she is under the assumption that the purpose of photography is to show a realistic worldview. Whereas photograph does not have a singular purpose and is up to a subjective interpretation. Photography contains a multitude of different aspects, spreading information being only one aspect. Photography can be used as an art form, as a way of sharing beauty with the world. Photography can also share knowledge in a positive way, and inform others about different cultures and places they wouldn’t have access to otherwise. It is an exceptional way to gain information as long as you’re cautious about your sources, and have the ability to differentiate between true and false.