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ATLS 2000

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Assignment #7

When you gave this assignment, I thought instantly thought to myself about how I was going to do this especially since I knew this was going to be very weird and creepy. I then came to the decision that I would discreetly take a picture of a person on the bus. When I did it, I was looking the opposite direction while pointing my phone camera towards them and tapping the capture button. When I looked at the photos, they were blurry and had part of my hand in the picture because I didn’t realize it was over the camera. I decided to keep the part of my hand in there because it showed that I wasn’t trying to take a good picture but rather trying to take a picture and not get caught. The two guys never found out. When I took a look at the pictures, I could see that the two seemed to be showing each other something. What the picture didn’t show was that they were friends, or at least acquainted. The picture only shows one guy showing another a picture, it doesn’t show that they were acquainted, they could have been total strangers showing each other the time or something. I only knew they were acquainted because I could hear what they were talking about. all in all, this experience shows me that you can capture a lot in a photo if the person isn’t aware that they are being photographed.

In relation to Susan Sontag’s *In Plato’s Cave*, there are some points that this photo supports and some that aren’t supported. Sontag argues that photos aren’t very truthful or hold false meaning because they are so flawed. The point above saying how the relationship between the two guys are unknown since it is just a photo somewhat supports this idea of a photo having false meaning. However, I believe that in this photo there isn’t any false meaning since this photo was not altered in any way, it is just a raw photo taken from my phone. I do agree that Sontag’s argument does apply to a lot of photos but not all photos. Sure, a lot of photos are edited to the point that it looks real but has an entirely different connotation than what it would have in reality. An example could be models where they are photoshopped so that they will look more appealing. This, I agree, is an example of an image that holds false meaning. The photo doesn’t show the person’s self in reality but rather someone different. But when people see these photos, they are “baited” into thinking that the person in the photo is real and looks that way in reality. In our modern age, there is technology being made that will even further make things like photos have more false meaning. This creates a lens over society’s eyes which creates many false views. However, there are also photos that capture nothing but the truth. These photos are raw, unedited photos that capture a moment. In regard to the photo that I took, it captures a true moment between two people that shows nothing false. These photos are something that I think are very beautiful in the fact that it has so many true meanings to it. I agree that there are many photos that hold meanings that aren’t true, but don’t forget that the photos that are unedited have the biggest meaning to them.