

Object: camera

Imagine you are at the top of a mountain. It is chilly and windy, but the view takes your breath away. You lift your camera up to your face, adjust your aperture... and snap.

[insert camera click and release] → [fade into low happy music]

From the time I was really little, I always wanted to have my own camera, to capture the world as I saw it, and be able to share that with other people.

This might be a romanticized view of the function of photography and the camera, because after all, there are magazines filled with photos of wildlife, runway models, and the latest fashions, and they all function the same way: as a way to demonstrate things and to appeal to the eye.

I want to use my camera as more than just a medium to demonstrate.

[hopeful music begins...]

I want to unleash the creative potential of the medium and create all kinds of pictures that fill the world with people who ask and inquire into why the picture was taken this way, how it changes if the scene is altered in some way, and what it all means.

I have always been in connecting with people. I'm still not sure how I am going to see out that goal in my career, but for now, I am choosing to do a bunch of little things that help me connect and share and learn with people.

[...fades out]

Dating to 1816, the camera is a fairly new invention that, in turn, says something about the modern desires of people; desires to remember things in a way that preserves the exact likeness of a moment.

Early cameras exposing plates with chemicals to light to create a picture, a fascinating process. And, although the techniques for creating an image have changed, the fundamental aspects of photography have not. The key ingredient in making a picture whether on film or digitally, is light.

Whether it's using chemicals or creating a play of light using aperture or shutter speed and capturing it with a digital image, light plays an enormous part in the creation of an image.

The camera has become part of the way that we see both ourselves and everything around us. Cameras help us remember external moments in perfect detail. They also radically change the way we view ourselves. Concepts like body image and the way images dominate culture owe themselves to this magical technology. The options only continue to proliferate. Whether taking selfies or posting images on social media, the camera has become a tool for sharing our selves with society, creating pressure to see others and compare ourselves to them.

When I visited the mountains recently, I took close to 200 pictures in 2 days. Photos of everything from landscapes to plants to pictures of humans. One picture is a portrait of my boyfriend in a dimly lit restaurant sitting across from me. There is a soft light from behind and from the side that illuminates the shadows on his face just right. I wasn't trying to take this picture, I just wanted it to be decently exposed. But it turns out, it was a perfect.

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Commented [AD1]: I would think about cutting this.

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Deleted: the world, and dominates the way we see ...oth ourselves and everything around us. Not only do we use the camera to...ameras help us remember external moments that we want to remember ...n perfect detail. They also, but we also use it as a way to view ourselves and this radically changed...the way we view ourselves. Something such as...oncepts like body image and comparing yourself to other people began to...he way images dominate culture the camera has been a large part of that...we ourselves to this magical technology. The options only continue to proliferate. Whether t...king selfies or , ...osting images on social media,;...the camera has become a tool for us to be able to ...haring...our selves these moments...with our society, and ...reatings...a greater ... [5]

Deleted: The camera, and along with that photography, in my opinion, is one of the most engaging, creative and difficult hobbies that one can have. I personally use my camera constantly. I take different exposures of the same image and create different angles, zoom in and out and just overall love the work that it takes to create the perfect photo. ¶

[Insert interviews about what people think of their own self-portraits]

And that's the double-edged sword of the camera: It can be something that creates to remember for a lifetime or something that can make you see yourself as inadequate to others.

But those aren't the only two options, photography can be something that does in fact reconcile the idea of comparison, to something that can empower people...

This is a very loose idea of what I want to try and talk about as well as possibly include personal experiences but I'm not sure what the best thing to do is yet.

Commented [AD2]: I see where this angle is heading and think it can make a nice organizing principle for the second half of the essay. As it is, I marked more edits in the opening page, which seem more developed. I feel like the paragraph that ends with "compare ourselves to them" give you an opportunity to add a segment or two that develops the double-edged sword angle, and that after you put that together, closing out with the perfect shot of your boyfriend might allow you to come up with some kind of conclusion that brings things back to the personal and makes a final statement about the camera in terms of the identity questions.

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