

THROUGH THE LENS

Teaching perspective,
and social change with
photography



Prepared For :

Calgary Girls Charter

Why Photography?



Photography is a medium that gives students of all levels a chance to interact with subject matter and enter at their own level. They are not restricted by reading, writing, or language levels.

Looking at perspectives through photography, gives students a voice, to feel proud of who they are and bring an understanding of who others are. Photography allows us to understand each other in a deeper way, and see each other at a deeper level.

"Growing up as an immigrant in Canada, I did face bullying, prejudice, and stereotypical remarks because of my ethnicity and religion. Now, as an educator, I longed to teach the beauty that comes with diversity in my classroom, in our school, and in our world. I hoped my students to respect and encourage the contribution of various cultures, acknowledge the validity of different cultural expressions and value what other cultures offer, and celebrate rather than just tolerating the differences in order to bring about unity through diversity. It is true when people say, "Practice acceptance and celebrate diversity because strength lies in differences, not in similarities," and I believe that The Windows Into Our World display effectively demonstrates and teaches value of diversity, not only to our students but whoever walks into the building. I am so grateful and proud to have this display in our school."

*Euna Namkoong
Grade 3/4 Teacher*



About Beyond our image

Shannon Hutchison (she/her) is the Founder of Beyond Our Image, A Calgary based Culture Change enterprise that uses stories to move people together, creating stronger communities and fostering empathy in the workplace. Shannon has 15 years of teaching experience with a Bachelor of Education degree - teaching in the U.K., Tanzania, and Canada. She is also a professional photographer for 10 years. Through travelling, teaching, and being part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community she saw the importance of creating a place of belonging for everyone. Beyond Our Image creates visual campaigns and facilitates storytelling workshops to foster communities where every person matters and feels seen, heard, and important.



WHO AM I

This 7-day program is recommended for grade 4 students and younger. The program can be modified. All students will need to have a device to take a photo with. This can be any device, making it accessible for them to continue their journey as a photographer after the project is complete.

DAY 1 - CAMERA BASICS

Introduce the camera as a tool to tell a story.

Camera skill - composition, fill the frame

DAY 2 - CAMERA BASICS

Perspective

The perspective we take the picture from can change the story and add creativity to photos

DAY 3 - CAMERA BASICS

Camera Skill - Lighting

DAY 4 - WE ARE UNIQUE

Through the campaign, 'When You Pass By' students will examine what is important for people to know about them. What is important to them?

DAY 5 - WHO AM I?

This day students will talk about who they are by filling out sentence frames, "I am ____" and "I am a ____". They will look at the multiple facets of their identity.

DAY 6 - PLANNING SELF PORTRAIT

Students will start to create a plan for the final self portrait that will represent who they are. What clothes will they be wearing? What will be in the portrait?

DAY 7 - SHARING DAY - MONDAY

Students will be taken through the process of listening to one another. They will be sharing their photo with another student, and will talk about what they included in the portrait and how it relates to themselves. Feedback from their partner will come in the form of support.

** There is a possibility to create a large school display to bring the photos to life and build community.

PERSPECTIVES

This 7 day program is recommended for grade 5 students and older. The program can be modified. All students will need to have a device to take a photo with. This can be any device, making it accessible for them to continue their journey as a photographer after the project is complete.

DAY 1 -CAMERA BASICS

Introduce the camera as a tool to tell a story. Every picture is from the photographer's perspective.
Camera skill - composition

DAY 2 - CAMERA BASICS

Camera Skill - Lighting and colors

DAY 3 - CAMERA BASICS

Perspective
The perspective we take the picture from can change the story and add creativity to photos

DAY 4 - WHERE PERSPECTIVES COME FROM

Through a campaign called 'Swipe Your Stereotype' students will challenge their biases and evaluate where their perspectives and assumptions come from. They will examine whether they can challenge their perspectives and see other peoples.
How can our biases shape our perspectives and stand in the way of seeing others?

DAY 5 - WHAT STORY DO YOU WANT TO TELL ABOUT YOURSELF?

Through the campaign, 'When You Pass By' students will examine the biases that get in the way of us seeing one another. What are things they like people seeing? What do people not see? How do they want to be seen?

DAY 6 - PLANNING SELF PORTRAIT

Students will start to create a plan for the final self portrait. This will include size, colours shapes, lighting, and perspective. What do they want people to see them? What story to they want to tell? Students will have the weekend to create their portrait.

DAY 7 - SHARING DAY - MONDAY

Students will be taken through the process of listening to one another. They will be sharing their photo with another student, and will talk about photography choices they made and the message behind their self portrait. Feedback from their partner will come in the form of support, and acknowledgement.

** There is a possibility to create a large school display to bring the photos to life and build community.

Other Program

Ideas

School Community Theme

My Identity

Storytelling

Bias

The programs are just a starting point, customize them to be your own.

I look forward to working with you to move students forward in understanding themselves and others.

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