

History of Photojournalism
Fall 2013

Written assignment #3

During the Depression era of the 1930s, photographers and writers working for the Resettlement Administration and later the Farm Security Administration made pictures across the country. The original mission of the Resettlement Administration's Historical Division was to document government programs, but project coordinator Roy Stryker pursued a larger goal of creating a photographic record of American life in the 1930s. The work of FSA photographers was published in newspapers and magazines and has been collected into several books.

Recent years have brought new economic challenges for the country. Within the past few years a new group of photographers has set out to "vividly illustrate the nation's most pressing concerns." Facing Change: Documenting America is a collective group of photographers and writers that claims inspiration from the FSA project. The project has turned to the internet to present stories, photographs and multimedia presentations.

In a brief essay, consider the aims and the work of the FSA and FCDA. It's given that there are similarities and differences between the two groups. How might the similarities and differences affect the content produced by the photographers? What do you see in the FCDA project that you recognize as an FSA influence? Finally, from your understanding of the FSA and environment in the 1930s, do you think FCDA can have a similar impact? Why or why not?

Don't forget to consider similarities and differences in the social, political, economic, media aspects of the two time periods as you outline your essay.

Limit your answer to roughly 250 words. Submit your finished short essay through the course Blackboard site before class October 1.