Representing Reality

The media attempts to create a believable version of reality- if it was not believable, you would not accept it. The media relies on what has been termed ‘willingly suspending your disbelief’. You know it is a film or television show, but you ‘go along’ with the illusion- if you did not, you would not get any enjoyment from it. This seems obvious when we are talking about fictional texts, but the creation and construction of reality happens just as much in non-fiction texts such as news and documentaries. It is just that in the latter cases the construction is concealed more by the creator- impacting on the understanding of the viewer/reader and their interpretation of ‘reality’

SELECTION and OMISSION- the process completed by media producers around what they will include and what they will exclude in the construction process before distributing their product to audiences, which will impact on the consumption and reception of the media narrative.

a. Describe what is happening in the images above.

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b. How has the reading of the image been impacted by selection and omission in the first two frames?

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c. What implications can you see with images being manipulated like this?

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Use the selection and omission process through cropping to change the meaning of the original image, using one of the images provided to you. Paste in your example below.
Explain your SELECTION decisions and how it impacted on the meaning in the image

Explain your OMISSION decisions and how it impacted on the meaning in the image

Discuss the impact that selection and omission can have on the production, distribution, consumption and reception process.
The "tourist guy" was a hoax that featured a digitally altered photograph of a tourist on the observation deck of the World Trade Center, supposedly on the day of the September 11 attacks, showing a plane about to hit the tower in the background. The photo became an Internet phenomenon as many manipulated pictures spread online. The man in the photograph was identified as Hungarian Péter Guzli, who took the photo in 1997. Guzli said he edited the photo as a joke for his friends and did not realize it would spread across the Internet.

The Tourist Guy is a perfect example of how reality can be manipulated through the selection and omission process.

1. Annotate the codes in the image that create meaning.
2. Plan and produce your own tourist guy image (could use actual tourist guy or be inspired to create something similar).
The media represent a construction as though it was reality. The representations constructed and distributed by media institutions, media producers and audiences every day across a variety of different platforms are created as though they are original and authentic. These representations can be a variety of different things, such as:
- Individuals (these can be human or animated characters in narratives, or political and historical figures or celebrities)
- Social groupings (such as families, genders, age or ethnic groups)
- Institutions (such as the law)
- Ideas (such as freedom, or equality)
- Events (such as wars)
- Issues (such as climate change, the environment or terrorism)

All these different categories of representations are impacted by CONTEXT - the decisions made in the construction of the representations are impacted by the reasons why they are being constructed, and the context (social, cultural and institutional) that they are been constructed, distributed and consumed in.

Find an example of each type of representation

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Representing yourself

Brainstorm a list of things you would want to include to best represent yourself to me, as your media teacher—try to cover as many different types of representations (from above) relevant to you as possible.

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Explain how that list would change if you were representing yourself to the audience of your peers.

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The Room Project

Background on The Room photography project

Exhibited 2012 – 2017
Available to purchase as a book in English or French

In 2010, John Thackwray began his long-term photographic project, the “My Room Project”. The concept is simple: photographing young men and women born in the 80’s and 90’s, in the places they sleep, all around the world, and interviewing them about their lifestyle, local issues, education, religion, or love. More than a thousand candidates from 55 countries have already participated.

All these photographs bear witness to the world around us. This is a consciousness project, combining visual anthropology and social photography, which sparks awareness of the diversity of lifestyles, as well as the destruction of traditions, and the rise of inequalities.

John is an international filmmaker and photographer born in South Africa. His personal work mainly focuses on human rights and development issues around the world.

http://myroomphotos.com/ http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/entry/bedrooms-around-the-world_us_57eaf4c0e4b0c2407cda5ca5
Holiday Homework

Plan and take (with a tripod or set the shot up and ask someone else to click the button) a photo of yourself in a room that is important to you. Email it to walsh.jessica.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

What will you SELECT to include in the photo?

What will you OMIT from the photo?

Describe the representation of SELF that you are planning to include in the photo - what will your audience take away from the photo about you?