

Writing 20 – Africa is not a Country!

Blog Post 4: Images and Videos

Instructions:

We now know how to assess an author's project via *coming to terms* and how to use texts via *forwarding* and *countering*. In addition, you've learned how to analyze the content of colonial-era images. Now we get to apply our knowledge and our skills in analysis to contemporary photographic or video representations of Sub-Saharan Africa. In doing so, you will gain further experience in working with a variety of primary sources.

For this blog post, I'd like you to locate an image or video that represents some facet of **Sub-Saharan Africa**. Please attempt to embed your file within your post, at a moment when it would be helpful for the readers. (See blog post 1 for instructions – and know that I know that not all YouTube videos embed happily! If the video won't embed, please include a neat hyperlink to it). You should briefly introduce the image or video's content, making an argument about the representation it provides. Be creative and think broadly! You are welcome to use Duke's image databases, including the AP Image database, films (fictional or documentary), photographs from newspapers, clips from commercials, or even clips from a newscast. Your source must be:

- Available online
- Created after 1980

As always, I encourage you to find sources that address issues outside of East Africa, so that we as a class may expand our horizons. I assure you there are many available. Please contact me if you need help with your search.

Your 300-500 word post should:

- Analyze the content of your source. (In other words, come to terms with the text in a concise manner).
- Make an argument about the representation of Africa contained in your source.
- Use class readings to support your argument, through forwarding and countering.

Purpose:

As stated above, this set of blog posts will help us move from doing things with texts to doing things with other types of primary sources. They provide a sample of the type of work you'll be undertaking for your final project. In addition, these blogs are always a chance for you to investigate something that you find interesting – so choose a source of interest! Finally, as we comment on each other's posts, we also will gain practice in written academic conversation.

Reminders:

Blog Posts should be 300-500 words, include a link to your source, and be posted by 5pm on the day it is due.

- Group A: 10/24
- Group B: 11/4
- Group C: 11/18

Please compose your post in a word processor. This helps to think of your post as a formal piece of writing, and will also allow you to compose it, save it, and then come back to it to revise and edit before publishing it online.

Comments:

Post two comments (50-100 words) on the blog each week posts are made. You need to be sure to comment on the recent posts (there will be four at a time, so don't go back to a post from 4 weeks ago!) Remember, comments should contribute to the conversation – offering a new perspective, a rebuttal, a helpful piece of evidence. Consider ways in which you can practice forwarding and countering in your comments. Comment deadlines are by 8am on the following days:

- 10/24
- 11/7
- 11/21

Have fun!