

## Essay 1

Read Pennell's *Is Photography Among the Fine Arts?* and consider the following.

Choose any photograph in your textbook that piques your interest and using this image, consider arguments for and against the artistic merits of the photograph. Define "art" and identify what characteristics any work must have in order to be identified as art. Discuss particular visual elements of your photo in support of your position. Use sources to further develop your argument.

Consider that photographers had to argue the place for photographs in art, and that to this day, photographs are sold for less/have less monetary value than paintings and sculpture. What biases are in operation in this circumstance? Discuss Victorian views on the nature of art and art making, and how that perspective marginalized photographic media well into the modern period.

- or -

Using the website links provided, create one of the following photographic devices. Describe the photographic device you made and how it works. Explain the process of making an image, difficulties encountered, and your reaction to the image produced. Document your creation with a photo of your device/print, and attach to your essay.

### **Camera Obscura**

Follow the directions at <http://www.howcast.com/videos/387145-How-to-Transform-a-Room-into-a-Camera-Obscura>, to create a room-sized camera obscura, or at [http://www.exploratorium.edu/science\\_explorer/pringles\\_pinhole.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/pringles_pinhole.html) to create a camera obscura out of a Pringles canister.

### **Sun Print**

Purchase "sun print" or "cyanotype" paper from a craft/ art supply store. (You can also find directions at [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2063489\\_make-cyanotype.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2063489_make-cyanotype.html) to create your own, but use caution!) Alternately, you may use construction paper to create a sun print, using the directions at [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5668084\\_make-sun-prints-construction-paper.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5668084_make-sun-prints-construction-paper.html).

### **Pinhole Camera**

Follow the directions at <http://www.wca.kodak.com/global/en/consumer/education/lessonPlans/pinholeCamera/pinholeCanBox.shtml> or <http://www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Make-A-Pinhole-Camera/>, to make a photograph using a pinhole camera.

### **Zoetrope**

Follow the directions at <http://www.groeg.de/puzzles/zoetrope.html> or <http://www.randommotion.com/html/zoe2.html>, to create your own zoetrope.