

Essay 2
The Other

Read Allan Sekula's *The Body and the Archive* and respond to the following:

As Sekula argues, briefly describe how “photography came to establish and delimit the terrain of the other, to define both the generalized look-the typology-and the contingent instance of deviance and social pathology”? American portrait photographer Marcus Aurelius Root argued that photographs would serve as an educational tool as well that carte-de-visites of great people would become persistent reminders of moral exemplars. How are these aspects of the photographic portrait related to notions of truthfulness and accuracy? How then, would photography be seen as an effective means of surveillance and policing? Compare and contrast Alphonse Bertillon's anthropometric photos with Francis Galton's composite portrait. Explain how, in Sekula's argument, “The projects of Bertillon and Galton constitute two methodological poles of the positivist attempts to define and regulate social deviance”? Relate what you have learned in Sekula's article to a contemporary photograph dealing with law, order, criminality, and/or surveillance. Define The Other and describe how your photograph others its subject. What problems are inherent in such subjective uses of the photograph?



Alphonse Bertillon, c. 1890s.



Francis Galton, *The Jewish Type*, 1883.