

## Photo Analysis Guidelines

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Your group will create a photo presentation on modern Iran. To accomplish this you will need to select and analyze three photos from our digital collection at [www.choices.edu/resources/iran\\_photo.php](http://www.choices.edu/resources/iran_photo.php). For each photo you select, begin the analysis process by making close observations. Using this data, try to interpret each of the photos. Once you have carefully thought about each of your photos, you will be ready to create your digital photo presentation.

**Note:** Be careful to distinguish between hypotheses and conclusions. While photos can provide clues about societies and how people live, be aware that photos, like written documents, come from a point of view. When analyzing photos you need to think about both the content of the photo and the point of view of the photographer.

Consider the following prompts for analyzing each photo. Discuss the most relevant questions with your group:

### Step 1: Observation

- What is the setting?
- What objects do you see in the photo?
- Which objects are central to the photo?
- How would you describe the conditions of those objects?
- What people do you see?
- What are the people doing?
- How would you describe their appearance? (Gender, age, expressions, body language, clothing etc.)
- How would you describe the types of interactions people are having?

### Step 2: Interpretation

- How would you describe the mood of the photo?
- What do you think is the context of the photo? In other words, what circumstances or events are being captured in the photo?
- If the photo captures people, who do you think these people are and what are they doing?
- Does the photo offer any clues about life in Iran?
- What new questions does this picture raise for you about Iran?

### Step 3: Source Evaluation

- Who do you think took the photo?
- What do you think the photographer's purpose is in taking this photo? What were they trying to capture?
- What appears to be the relationship of the photographer to the subjects? Are they aware that the picture is being taken?
- Is there any evidence that the photographer was trying to make us feel a certain way about the people or places in the photo?
- Is there any evidence that the photo was staged? Does this make the photo more or less useful to us?
- Is there any evidence that the photo has been altered?
- Is there a question you would want to ask the photographer in order to evaluate their point of view?

### Step 4: Making Hypotheses

- Make three hypotheses about present day Iran based on your analysis of the photos you selected. Record your hypotheses using the digital tool, **Looking at Iran**.
- Be prepared to share your work.