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## **Proposal**

### **Introduction:**

This proposal will be about Dorothea Lange and how she used the image of the Migrant Mother and other works to explain the question, how did she use her works to implement changes in society. Dorothea Lange used her work not to show a certain event or convey a certain message, but rather to use her works to make changes in society. She was born in Hoboken New Jersey in 1895. She had a rough childhood growing up with the disease polio since the age of seven. However she lived a good life till the age of 70.

### **Rationale:**

A reason to discuss how she used her works to implement changes in society, is to show how influential she was on people's lives. Since she grew up with polio she had a hard childhood, but those experiences is what made her see photography the way she did. As Lolly Gepson stated in her review of "Dorothea's Eyes: Dorothea Lange Photographs the Truth", she learned to see with her eyes and her heart. This made her a great photographer and helped her to show others see with their hearts and created a lasting portrayal of events in U.S. history.<sup>1</sup> It is because of her experiences is what many her in many ways so influential to society. Also her style of photography played a factor in on how she impacted society. As Tamara A. Conley stated in her

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<sup>1</sup> Gepson, Lolly. "Dorothea's Eyes: Dorothea Lange Photographs the Truth." *The Booklist* 112, no. 11 (2016): 36.

review of the book, Dorothea Lange themes of “the Great Depression, homelessness, hunger, poverty, and loneliness”, was an eye opener for many people, even helped influence others to create changes in the government to provide aid to families. This was an eye opener because unlike many photographers who take photographs for the beauty of photographs, she took them to show others what kind of world we live in and what are we doing to change it.<sup>2</sup> This shows that the story of Dorothea Lange have been reviewed and looked upon by many scholarly and non scholar individuals, and that shows the important implications that she had in her work.

Another reason to discuss the story of Lange is to show the how her impact on the society had an influence on future generations. All actions have ripple effects and her photographs and implications on society can still be seen making changes. One event that can be see is one of her comments in the “American History Plan” which was about the people she photographs which was in my opinion very inspiring especially to say that during the time of the great depression. Lange stated that “The people in these camps want their stories told.... haven't been found guilty of a crime”, she was taking photos of people in the internment camps and wanted to make a difference.<sup>3</sup> This is a inspiring statement because not many people had the courage to make a difference but nonetheless Lange tried. This can be influential to future generations and a key interest in many people's lives to strive to make a difference in society like Lange. Also her story can be seen as one of determination for success. As Elizabeth Partridge said in “The Creative Life”, she stated how Dorothea Lange was no stranger to difficult times. Due to her polio disease

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<sup>2</sup> Conley, Tamara A. 2016. “Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine.” *Catholic Library World* 87 (1): 64–65.

<sup>3</sup> Wilmore, Kathy. “American History Play.” *Junior Scholastic* 112, no. 1 (September 7, 2009): 18.

<http://ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f6h&AN=43821383&site=ehost-live>.

she was made fun of, called names, and used to cut school to get away from it all. Many kids today can relate to this not by have the disease but how life can get you down and people will ridicule you for being different. However this did not stop her from doing what she loved, this is the definition of determination, when people push you down you must push back harder to become great that that is what Dorothea Lange did.<sup>4</sup>

**Approval:**

This proposal is in request for approval from Professor Brown on my topic of Dorothea Lange and the implications her work had on society. Lange had many successes in her work, she made changes to people's lives during difficult times and also had an influence in society today. Her work can be a great asset in changing the lives of many others. Also her work can inspire many others to follow in her example, not only in photography but in many other fields based on her chartater.

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<sup>4</sup> Partridge, Elizabeth. "The Creative Life: A Biographer Strives to Connect Today's Teens with Artists from the Past. (Up for Discussion)." *School Library Journal* 48, no. 10 (2002): 42.

### Annotated bibliography

**Gepson, Lolly. "Dorothea's Eyes: Dorothea Lange Photographs the Truth." *The Booklist* 112, no. 11 (2016): 36.**

In this article there are many books being discussed and the book about Dorothea Lange is one of them. This is a review about the book by Lolly Gepson, and he showed how Lange's story and experiences had an effect on her and her work. Gepson talked about her childhood and her disease polio at the age of seven. He also talked about how she was made fun of and felt alone. However he showed how she used her experiences of hard times to show how she saw the world differently and tried to show the world her view of it. This is a great article and I will be using it in my proposal because it showed how she use her style of work to make changes in society.

**Wilmore, Kathy. "American History Play." *Junior Scholastic* 112, no. 1 (September 7, 2009): 18.**

<http://ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f6h&AN=43821383&site=ehost-live>.

In this article it shows the interview of Dorothea Lange about her works. She started with how she left her hometown and mother to become a photographer. She walked us down the path of her experiences and how it have made her who she is. She also talked about how she felt like it was her job of get these pressing issue out into the world like the treatment in the internment camps and try to make a difference. This article i will use in my proposal because it showed and was said by Lange herself how she used her works to implement changes in the society.

**Henry, Carole. "Migrant Mother by Dorothea Lange." *Art Education* 48, no. 3 (1995): 25-40.**

This article Henry discussed the the photograph of the Migrant Mother. He started the article with show background information, like where is she from, how she got into photography, etc. Henry talked about how the emotion can clearly be seen in this photograph and how that emotion can connect with many people during that era in time. This is a reliable, peer-reviewed article, but I will not be using it in my proposal because it talks many about the migrant mother. This article is a great article for my group presentation about Dorothea Lange but not for this proposal.

**Conley, Tamara A. 2016. "Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine." *Catholic Library World* 87 (1): 64-65.**

There are many subsections in the article that Tamera Conley wrote about many great books. One of them were the biography of Dorothea Lange, and a review about the book. Conley talked about how Langes life was like and what difficulties she faced growing up with polio. She also showed that how even through all the challenges she faced Lange still strived to do what she loved to do. She then talked about how Lange used her works to make changes for people in society. I will be using this article in the proposal because in relates to my question about Dorothea Lange.

**Bosi, Antonio De Padua. "History and Photographic Narrative: The Case of Dorothea Lange's Migrant Mother/Historia E Narrativa Fotografica: O Caso De "Migrant Mother", De Dorothea Lange." *Historia Da Historiografia*, no. 19 (2015): 159.**

This article is a story about Dorothea Lange and one of her most Famous photographs the "Migrant Mother". This photograph was taken in 1936 which was the age of the Great

Depression, she not only took the photograph of the mother but many others. However the Migrant Mother became a symbolic photograph during this era. One main point that Bosi discussed was how Lange impacted the history of art through these photographs. This is a great article but will not be using it in my proposal because it only talks about the migrant mother and I need more evidence to show how she made changes to society.

**Fabian, Ann. "Toast in Depression and War: The Photography of Everyday Life." *Raritan* 34, no. 2 (2014): 62-83,158.**

In this article Ann Fabian discussed the photographs taken by the Office of War Information and the U.S Ranch Security Administration, during the time of 1935 to 1943. Fabian talks about how the photographs show the ordinary life of the Great Depression and World War II. The photographs show that how that when a certain event like the Great Depression hits it changes the lives of everyone. She showed photographs of people in the streets, schools, and workplace. This shows how many were living there lives during this time. This is a reliable and scholarly article but i will not use it in the proposal due to the fact that it is not about Lange. However it is a great source for background information for the time period.

**Partridge, Elizabeth. "The Creative Life: A Biographer Strives to Connect Today's Teens with Artists from the Past. (Up for Discussion)." *School Library Journal* 48, no. 10 (2002): 42.**

This article was about how Partridge talked to a group of highschool kids about Dorothea Lange. She talked about her life, growing up with polio and how she faced hard times just like most people. She even demonstrated of she used to walk because she remembered how Lange walked, due to the fact that Partridge was the godchild to Dorothea Lange. She also connected

how Lange was a determined person just like most of the kids today to do better. This article is a great article and i will be using it in my proposal because you can see the implications Langes life have changed society and how the ripple effects of that is still changing lives today.

**Curtis, James C. "Dorothea Lange, Migrant Mother, and the Culture of the Great Depression." *Winterthur Portfolio* 21, no. 1 (1986): 1-20.**  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1181013>.

In this article it talks about one of Dorothea Lange's famous photographs the "Migrant Mother" and how she made an amazing contribution to history. Her work was also discussed to work of art. In the article it was also stated that the government liked the photograph because it was like a symbolic photograph of the difficult times in the United States during that era which was the Great Depression. This is a great article however I will not be using it in my proposal because it talked mainly on the one photograph Migrant Mother. I may use it for my group presentation.