

Image and Hashtag Assignment (from *A Lexicon of Migration*, ANTH / GIS 224)

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| Course Type/ Level: | Social Studies 100- to 200-level |
| Assignment Goals: | Students select an image that relates to the course topic while also putting that image in conversation with the assigned reading. |
| Materials to Provide Students: | For Google Classroom: written instructions, access to Internet, familiarity with “Assignment” (on GC). This year, we’ve had a good experience with Padlet (which makes it quite easy for students to see one another’s images and hashtags). |
| Technological Resources Needed: | See above. |
| Preparatory Steps: | Create a Padlet page and give students the page code for access. Create an “assignment” on GC for the first and the revised version of their statements (see below). |
| Tasks/Steps: (Outline of the steps this activity or assignment involves) | <p>This assignment unfolds in multiple steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) students select an image (related to migration, in this case) from the Internet, label it with three hashtags that begin to characterize/interpret it, and compose an approximately 2-page statement that offers a close reading of the image and starts to put it in conversation with one or more assigned readings. Students then post the image and hashtags (as well as, perhaps, the first draft of their statement) on Padlet.2) In a virtual class meeting, students view one another’s images and hashtags and offer one another questions, suggestions, and alternative interpretations. Outside of class, professor reads the statements and offers constructive feedback for revision.3) On the basis of classmates’ commentary and the professor’s feedback, the students revise their statements (and potentially their hashtags) and submit a final 2-page version. |

Here are sample instructions from ANTH / GIS 224, which this year is working closely with our partner class at AUCA:

The Image Assignment (First Draft)

Select a **photograph or other graphic** that relates in some way to migration and upload it to the joint network class page on Padlet. You will also add **three hashtags** to your image and write a **300- to 600-word (1- to 2-page) statement** that explains how it engages with practices, policies, and/or discourses of migration. This portion of the assignment is due by the beginning of class on [insert date here].

Please follow the instructions on Google Classroom under “Assignment 1: Images and Hashtags” (which is in the “Shared Assignments” topic on the “Classwork” tab).

In class on [insert date here], we will view and comment on the images you and your classmates have selected (and perhaps suggest new hashtags?).

On the basis of these discussions and my written feedback, you will submit a **revised 500- to 600-word (2-page) statement** for your image, due on [insert date here].

Some points to have in mind:

You can find your image online, but it can also come from other sources, or it can be one that you create yourself.

Do your best to find a “distinctive” image. (Don’t do a Google image search for “migration” and pick the first photo that comes up.) For example, your image can engage with your or your family’s lived experiences, with work or research you’ve done, or with your specific academic interests.

The image doesn’t have to relate to the U.S., the Americas, or Central Asia (although those are our geographic foci).

The hashtags should be focused and directly related to your image. (In other words, overly general hashtags

like “migration,” “border,” and “refugee” are off-limits.)

Your statement should provide context for your image. (At the very least, where and how did you find it?)

Your statement should engage in a close, detailed, critical interpretation of the image and the manner in which it represents some aspect of migration.

Ideally, your statement should quote or refer to at least one assigned reading in a thoughtful manner. (We will put more emphasis on this aspect of the assignment when we read the final version of your statement.)

And finally, your statement should pay attention to the requirements of academic writing, including cohesion, style, composition, and mechanics.

The Image Assignment Revision

Based on the class readings so far, my feedback, and in-class discussion, please revise your original statement and your hashtags. Please make sure to engage critically with at least one of the texts we have discussed in class. Your revision, which should be 500-600 words (2 pages) in length, is due by [insert date here].

Additional Tips or Advice:

This assignment allows students room for creativity and self-direction while also pushing them to engage critically with the assigned readings. It also encourages students’ skills in giving and receiving constructive feedback from multiple sources.

I’ve found that I sometimes need to remind students that their statements needs to take the visual composition and details of their image seriously. But many of them are quite adept at this kind of analysis.

In addition, I’ve found that this assignment offers students good practice in selecting, introducing, and contextualizing relevant quotations (from other sources) in their own writing.

