

Personal Study Plan

Define the objective or focus of the essay:

The focus of my essay is going to be Robert Franks "The America's" work from the 1950's, shot in black and white. He believed that "Black and white are the colours of photography". "There is one thing the photograph must contain, the humanity of the moment". I will be investigating how true Robert Franks statement is by comparing his shots from "The America's" to photos from William Egglestons American street photography; being renowned for being the first street photos shot in colour and the "grandfather of colour street photography". Stephen's Shore's colour photography is about capturing everyday American life, such as gas stations. This can be compared to Franks work, as he has a more photojournalistic approach, capturing social and political ideas as he travels through America.

The relationship between the practical work and the focus of the study:

I am going to be photographing elements of street photography also, focusing on things such as pets and umbrellas (weather) in city surroundings, such as London, Manchester and Liverpool. Although Robert Frank and William Eggleston's photos don't have the same theme as my work, they revolve around the idea of street photography and the idea that each artist wants to capture something different that they see uniquely when looking at street photography. However, compositional values and use of colour that they reflect will be used in my work, such as rule of thirds.

I will be creating images in colour, selective colour and black and white, creating a wide variety to experiment which will best present my work, and argue Franks statement that "Black and white are the colours of photography" as well as Egglestons belief that "the world is in colour".

Sources to be used:

Books (at least THREE):

"The Americans" – Robert Frank, France 1958, United States, 1959

William Eggleston's guide – William Eggleston, released by Museum of Modern Art New York, 1976

Websites:

<https://www.britannica.com/art/street-photography>

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/robert-frank>

<https://www.moma.org/artists/1973-robert-frank>

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2019/sep/11/robert-frank-the-americans-outsider-genius-photography>

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/52883>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/840852>

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist/eggleston-william/>

Other sources:

London trip – Tate Modern and Boris Mikhailov, 16th October 2025

List the pieces of work that you will analyse in the study. Identify reasons for choosing these particular pieces and points that may be highlighted in the analysis. Mark the primary source/s with *

Name of piece:

Reasons for choice/Points to be raised:



“Trolley – New Orleans” in the book “The Americans” – 1955

Documentary photography – captures the physical divisions between people in society

Clear physical divisions between people with the white bars – harsh contrasts and divisions highlight society’s separation

Slightly lower vantage point

Rule of thirds / central to the frame



“Parade Hoboken – New Jersey” in the book “The Americans” - 1955

Political views

Face is covered, no identity of either women

One is dressed more sophisticated, covered or protected by the flag

Rule of thirds

Texture of flag and the bricks



“Box boy” – in the book “William Eggleston’s Guide” - 1965

Central to the frame

Vivid colours, colours from foreground and background contrast nicely, warm and cool tones

A process happening in front of him, decisive moment?

Slightly higher vantage point

Visit/s made/to be made:

London trip – Tate Modern and Boris Mikhailov, 16th October 2025

Possible conclusion/s to the study:

Robert Frank focused on political subjects when looking at American street photography, capturing a gloomy atmosphere using darker black and white photography. In comparison, William Eggleston looked at America in a spontaneous, every day way, capturing his photos quickly and in the moment to create this feeling in his photos. Observing instead of looking analytically like Frank.

Similar times when they were photographing America

Eggleston used dye-transfer, and still does although its considered an outdated method – simplicity, firm beliefs about colour being the way the world is seen