Mrs. Fitton HUMANS OF PENTICTON ADVENTURE EFP 10

**Background**: Humans of New York (HONY) is a famous blog and instagram account. Amateur photographer Brandon Stanton lost his job as a bond trader and had two camera’s which he didn’t even know how to use. He moved to New York and simply began to take pictures of people.

**Premise:** Stanton typically asks the subject one question and uses the response as a caption beneath the photograph. At times he writes what the person says when he asked permission to photograph them. Sometimes he chose a person because they were close to a backdrop that he wanted. Sometimes he chose them because they appeared interesting. Other times, what they were doing intrigued him.

In this sense, it is *not his photographic skills* which are noteworthy or have brought him fame, it is merely *capturing the humanity in the person,* and thus the humanity of each of us that makes his work compelling.

**Purpose**: To show you the many types of effective communication in the world (not just writing); to celebrate creativity; to reveal the variety of jobs/opportunities available; to celebrate humanity; to build empathy; a reminder not to judge someone based on a first impression.

**Assignment**: To take 1 “Humans of…..” photograph with a caption and a story and then present your work as a photographer. (we will learn some photography skills in class).

1. Get your phone ready to take photos. Embark looking with a photographer’s eye for people, for locations. See the world from a child’s eyes – everything is new and interesting. Everyone has a cool story to tell.

2. Ask a big life question – write response down. (see examples of his questions below.)

3. Write what they say when you ask to take their photo

4. Record their dialogue with you

**Your goal is to get them to tell a story**

Example questions: What is your biggest regret? What is your greatest struggle? Do you remember the happiest moment of your life? What’s the biggest obstacle stopping your from achieving what you want? What’s your biggest struggle right now? Tell me about a time you had trouble being optimistic? Who in your life have you had the hardest time forgiving? Tell me about a time you didn’t take a risk and you regretted it? Who/what is your biggest loss? What’s something you wish you dealt with differently? What brought you light in your darkest time? What keeps you up at night? What is your greatest achievement? What is the most hurtful thing anyone has said to you? What is one thing you would change from your past? What makes you cry? Who in life is your hero? What do you see as your purpose in life?

**Lesson**

1. Look at a youtube video of famous photographs and discuss the importance of photography. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssgjF3yp8mE>

2. Examples from HONY of how you can approach you assignment. <http://thoughtcatalog.com/kim-quindlen/2015/06/15-beautiful-heartening-inspiring-humans-of-new-york-posts/>

3. The Man Behind Hony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bcm6kwWv09o> (3:11 long) – What questions do students have?

4. Watch a youtube clip about Humans of New York and how he asks questions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPxzlGPrM3A> (3:28-5:45; 11:09-14:44)

5. Assignment instructions; photography mini-lesson. We will watch a youtube video on iphone photography: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhGsFzAZ71Y> At this point, students will go out and take 5 photos using some of the techniques from the tutorial. We will then share our photos as a class.

6. Take photographs and interview our subjects.

7. Write a paragraph that tells their story. You must include who they are, a caption of something interesting that they said and the dialogue of an interesting story they told you. Above the story include their photo.



For Further Inspiration, here are examples of his work to check out.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/humans-of-new-yorks-most-popular-2014-9?op=1/#ats-your-biggest-dream-for-your-child-well-let-him-dream-for-himself-new-delhi-india-september-2014-1>

<http://www.melyssagriffin.com/best-humans-of-new-york/>

