Bringing the Wide Angle Photography Contest into your classroom

*Use this lesson in whole or in part to introduce your students to the Wide Angle Photography Contest and deepen their engagement with the material from their student books. This is a suggested 2-day lesson plan but can be adapted to suit the needs of your students or institution.*

**Day 1**

**ACTIVATE**

1. Ask students: *What do you think makes an interesting or beautiful photograph? Do you have any tips for taking good photos? Can you remember some photos that have made a deep impression on you?*
2. Model the questions by showing students some of your favorite photographs and talking about them briefly. Then direct students to discuss the questions in pairs or groups of 3-4.
3. After the discussion, call on a few students to briefly share their ideas with the whole class.

**EXPAND**

1. Draw two columns on the board. Elicit from students any words they already know related to these 2 categories: taking pictures and describing photos. Briefly check meaning and ask students to say the words chorally a few times before writing it in the appropriate column. Elicit from students the part of speech or tell them if they aren’t sure.
2. Encourage students to write these words down because they may want to use them later for their writing.
3. Alternatively, consider introducing a few other level-appropriate vocabulary words and phrases, such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describing photos</th>
<th>Taking pictures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In focus</td>
<td>To zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filter</td>
<td>To take a photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background/foreground</td>
<td>To crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closeup</td>
<td>To edit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape/portrait/panoramic</td>
<td>To capture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color/Black and White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© Oxford University Press. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.
Light/dark
Lens
Thumbnail
Camera angle
There is.../there are...

Or, if appropriate to the students' level, introduce these suggested Vocabulary items from Level 3, Unit 6.2 (p68)

Landscape photo
Use a flash
A view of
Photo frame
Out of focus
A portrait of
In focus
Use a selfie stick

PREPARE

1. Elicit from students the phrase “a different angle” and “familiar” and briefly go over meaning (to see something in a new way; something well known to you).
2. Introduce to students the Wide Angle Photography Contest, showing them the URL www.oup.com/elt/wide-angle-contest. Explain to students that they will take photos of something familiar (a place, an object, a person) that shows a different angle. Remind students that they must not use filters or other camera features to edit the photos too much.
3. Have students work individually to list some familiar places, objects, and people that they could take photos of, and add some notes about a different angle they could show. Give an example to help students brainstorm, such as: “Everyday I see people packed in the subway, so I could take a photo of just their feet or legs.”
4. Ask students to take photos of as many of these ideas as they can before the next class. Remind them that they will be sharing these photos together in class the following day.
5. Alternatively, if time permits, allow students time during the day to take photographs in the surrounding areas.
Day 2

SHARE

1. Put students into groups of 3-4. Ask them to share their photos from the previous day.
2. Then ask the group to help each student select a favorite image to enter in the contest. Remind students to consider the theme ‘a different angle’, and the three questions they discussed at the start of the first lesson (What do you think makes an interesting or beautiful photograph? Etc.).

WRITE

1. Have students work independently to write a short paragraph about the story behind their photo. Tell students their description should be around 150 words, but remind them they can revise and edit it later on. Encourage students to use some of the vocabulary words they brainstormed earlier.

IMPROVE

1. Have students exchange their writing with a partner.
2. Tell students to use the following checklist to evaluate each other’s writing.
   - Does it focus on describing a different angle of something ordinary?
   - Does it help the reader to understand the photo better?
   - Does it include any of the useful vocabulary and phrases from the previous day’s class?
   - Is it less than 150 words?
   - Are there any grammatical problems?
   - Are the spelling and punctuation correct?
3. After students have given feedback to each other, give them time during class to make any corrections or changes to their writing. Monitor students closely as they revise to help when needed.
SHARE

1. Post students’ writing around the room along with a printed copy of their contest photo. Invite the class to view the photos and read each description, pretending they are the *Wide Angle* Photography Contest judges. Ask students to decide on their top three favorite entries.

2. Give students three sticky-notes each. Tell them to place the sticky-notes on the wall next to the photos so they can “vote” for their top three favorites and write comments explaining why.

3. After all students have viewed and written comments, have the authors read the comments on their entries.

4. Invite a few students to comment to the whole group on their favorite entries and why they liked them.

WHAT’S YOUR ANGLE?

1. Direct students to look through their *Wide Angle* Student Book. Ask students to discuss in groups of 3-4: *Which are your favorite photos? Why do you like them?*

FOLLOW UP Encourage students to send their submissions through the [www.oup.com/elt/wide-angle-contest](http://www.oup.com/elt/wide-angle-contest) URL at home, or set aside time during class to help them to do this.

© Oxford University Press. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.