Wide Angle Photography Contest

Story writing: how to write the story behind the photo

Background

Wide Angle is an English course for adults who want to feel confident interacting in any situation, and it has a special focus on authentic content, especially through real-world visual contexts.

Instead of using stock photography, OUP partnered with Blink to source images from five photographers from around the world, choosing images that would resonate with the Wide Angle’s students. The images used in the unit openers of the book are matched to the themes of each unit. The photographers tell the story behind the photo, as well as answering questions about the image as it relates to the theme of the unit.

The Wide Angle Photography Contest puts you in the position of the photographer. Take an original, creative photo, and then tell us the story behind it.

Tips for writing your story

1) Describe the subject of the photo: Your photo is of something that is familiar to you, but it may be less familiar to others. Introduce the subject of the photograph to help the reader understand it. Use appropriate senses to describe things that can’t be seen in the photo: how does it sound/feel/smell/taste?

2) Explain why you chose this subject: Is this a person/place/object that is important to you? How does it make you feel?

3) Describe your different angle: Write about the different perspective or viewpoint that you have taken in your photo. How did you achieve this effect? Did you use any unusual equipment to create your photo?

4) Explain why you chose this different angle: Talk about how people normally view this person/place/object, and why you chose this different angle. How does it alter people’s view or perception of the subject? What do you want people to think or feel when they see your photo?
Editing checklist

When you have finished your story, use the following checklist to review your writing:

☐ Does your story describe the subject of the photo?
☐ Does it explain why you chose this subject?
☐ Does it describe the different angle you have used?
☐ Does it explain why you chose this different angle?
☐ Is it less than 150 words?
☐ Are there any spelling, punctuation, or grammar errors?

When you are happy with your story, submit it along with your photograph. Go to www.oup.com/elt/wide-angle-contest to submit your entry when the competition opens.