



## **Learning through Doing: Reflections on the use of Photovoice in an Undergraduate Community Psychology Classroom**

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**Abstract**

Photovoice is becoming an increasingly popular research method in the field of Community Psychology (CP). This is, in part, because it reflects some of the values of CP, including respect for diversity and participation and collaboration. More recently, photovoice has also been used in undergraduate classrooms as a way to actively engage students in their learning, to enable students to investigate and address social problems of importance to them, and to help students develop self-efficacy skills. There are few extant studies in the CP literature, however, that describe how this has been done in undergraduate CP classrooms specifically, and in what ways it has influenced students, from students' perspectives. Accordingly, in this article, an Assistant Professor of Community Psychology and six of her former undergraduate students reflect on their experiences of the Community Psychology, Research, and Action course she taught at an urban-serving university in Washington in spring 2016, which was centered around the learning and implementation of a student-directed photovoice project about their campus. The instructor describes her objectives in centering her course around photovoice, including that students would learn this method well and add it to their toolbox, while also developing a stronger sense of community. Students then reflect on the aspects of their learning that most significantly influenced their development as students and people more broadly. Reflections suggest that participating in photovoice throughout a CP course has the potential to help students learn about CP- including its core values and principles- and experience some long-term empowerment-related outcomes on campus and in their communities. Implications for educators at similar universities, who may also want to experiment with photovoice in their undergraduate classrooms, are discussed.

**Introduction**

Photovoice is a community-based and participatory and action research method that has been used to communicate the voices and experiences of minoritized individuals and communities to policymakers, organizations, and institutions that have decision-making power (Wang & Burris, 1994, 1997). In the last two decades, photovoice has also increasingly been used in a variety of undergraduate classrooms as a pedagogical tool and as a means for facilitating individual and collective empowerment processes for students

(Goodhart, 2006; Wang, Morrel-Samuels, Hutchinson, Bell, & Pestronk, 2004). Empowerment processes are described as those that enable people to gain greater control over their lives, in part, through developing skills for addressing unjust social conditions in their communities and society more broadly (Ballard & Ozer, 2016; Zimmerman, 1995). One of the key skills identified in this research is critical consciousness, wherein individuals develop a more critical understanding of unjust systems and how to combat them (Foster-Fishman,

Nowell, Deacon, Nievar, & McCann, 2005; Freire, 1970).

Given that the field of Community Psychology (CP) views such processes (e.g., critical consciousness) and outcomes (e.g., community betterment) as essential to the research process, it is perhaps unsurprising that photovoice is one research method that has been used more frequently by community psychologists in the last several decades (Lykes & Hershberg, 2012). Community psychologists specifically are also turning to photovoice as a popular pedagogical tool for introducing undergraduates to the field and practice of CP. However, few exemplars of how this has been done, and/or of how it has impacted students from students' perspectives, are available in the extant community psychology literature (Lichty, 2013).

Accordingly, the purpose of this paper is (1) to present one example of how an Assistant Professor of Community Psychology used the photovoice method in the undergraduate community psychology course she taught for the first time at the University of Washington Tacoma, an urban-serving university with a distinct mission of providing access and facilitating success for nontraditional students, and to serving the community in which it is based (i.e., Tacoma and the South Sound Region more broadly) (see USUC, 2018). We hope that community psychologists and educators in similar fields will be able to draw on this example as they try to integrate photovoice into their undergraduate classrooms in the future. Additionally, drawing on the photovoice literature, the professor's reflections about how she developed the course, and reflections from six former students in the class about which components of the class most significantly impacted them, we aim (2) to describe how this pedagogical experiment facilitated students' interest and engagement in learning about and practicing CP values,

(3) helped them add a practical skill to their toolbox for use in- and outside of the college environment, and (4) enhanced their sense of community as well as their individual empowerment.

We begin by presenting a review of the literature about photovoice's varied uses in the social sciences and CP, and its specific use in the classroom to date. We then describe our university and classroom, and thus, the research context for this investigation. Here, the instructor also notes her specific learning objectives in centering the course around photovoice, describing in particular how the unique context of the school informed her objectives. Following this description, all major components of the curriculum, insofar as the photovoice project was concerned, are presented. Students then reflect on which particular in-class and out-of-class experiences most significantly influenced them and their engagement in CP, as well as their empowerment immediately after the project ended, and several years later. We conclude with a discussion of some encouraging implications and lessons learned for instructors at similar campuses who might want to use photovoice as a pedagogical tool in the CP classroom.

#### *The Photovoice Method Historically and at Present*

The photovoice method has been used in many communities and contexts around the globe since its development by public health researchers Caroline Wang and Mary Anne Burris in 1994. Wang and Burris turned to photovoice (initially described as photo novella) when they recognized that conventional research methods would not be the most effective tools for engaging village women in the Yunnan Province of China in a systematic analysis of reproductive health concerns in their communities, or in related social change processes. Wang and Burris (1994, 1997) described that when doing

community-based and participatory research with communities comprised of multiple languages, identities, positionalities, and, accordingly, varying levels of familiarity with the written word, different kinds of epistemological methods were required. In their initial writings about this method, Wang and Burris described photovoice as involving several basic steps, such as training community members in photographic techniques, engaging in group dialogue and discussion about the photos participants take and shared experiences represented therein, and communicating findings to policymakers. They noted that through this process, women also experienced one element of empowerment, specifically, “access to decisions.” Through their photos and captions, their voices were heard by policymakers and informed policies affecting their communities.

Since this time, researchers and practitioners in other fields, and working with diverse communities throughout the world have also turned to photovoice as a means for knowledge generation and dissemination within and across groups. These projects are numerous and varied, including the work by Umurungi, Mitchell, Gervais, Ubalijoro, & Kabarenzi (2014), which focused on centering the voices of teenage girls who live on the streets of Rwanda regarding their perspectives of safety and security vis-à-vis sexually-transmitted diseases, or research by True, Rigg & Butler (2015), which included veterans in the U.S. as coresearchers and highlighted their experiences (and specifically, barriers to) accessing mental health treatment.

Common across these studies is a commitment to using photography generated by participants as a means for engaging vulnerable communities in an analysis of their social conditions, and for thinking through what resources might be needed to improve the well-being for such communities.

However, these studies, and the myriad others that have been conducted in the last few decades, vary with respect to the degree to which participation and engagement of community members were emphasized, the specific photovoice processes that were implemented, and the outcomes that were prioritized (Catalani & Minkler, 2010).

Accordingly, Catalani and Minkler (2010) undertook a review of 37 photovoice studies to identify shared processes within them, and how variation with respect to group participation in particular, appeared to influence participant and community outcomes. Notably, they found that studies that included less group dialogue and analysis among participants yielded less active participation throughout the process. They also concluded that “engaging participants in critical dialogue had a double yield: producing valuable research data in the form of discussion of transcripts and serving as an empowerment intervention that had immediate benefits for research participants and their communities (Catalani & Minkler, 2010, p. 443).” These benefits included participants developing some critical consciousness around the issues they were investigating, and, as documented within some of the studies they reviewed, an increased sense of self-efficacy regarding facilitating social change in one’s community. Although only few of the studies they reviewed described empowerment outcomes among participants (e.g., Foster-Fishman et al., 2005), other important outcomes were mentioned, including enhanced community engagement in action and advocacy (or the potential for it), and improved understanding of community needs and assets. However, as Catalani and Minkler (2010) also noted, many of the studies were limited by not including evaluation of these potential positive impacts; they were described by study authors as likely to occur but not formally assessed.

Despite some variation in processes and outcomes, Catalani and Minkler found that the majority of studies involved the same elements of photovoice described by Wang and Burris (1994, 1997): photography training, research and documentation (e.g., photographing realities), and photo-elicited discussion. Additionally, the photo-elicited discussions in the majority of studies they reviewed were guided by some version of SHOWed method, popularized by Wang and Burris's research (1994, 1997). After being trained in photography, taking photos, and selecting photos that were most meaningful to them, community members asked these questions of one another's work:

1. What do you SEE here?;
2. What is really HAPPENING here?;
3. How does this relate to OUR lives?;
4. Why does this problem, concern, or strength EXIST?; and
5. What can we DO about it?

Their review closes with a suggestion that future researchers continue to capitalize on the flexibility of the method so that it can continue to be used in a variety of settings and with a variety of communities, while taking participants' needs, concerns, and availability into consideration. They also suggest that researchers and practitioners put more effort into documenting short- and long-term impacts of photovoice on participants and communities.

#### *Photovoice in the Classroom*

Catalani and Minkler (2010) also documented that colleges are one setting in which photovoice has been used more frequently. It has been found to be a particularly effective method for engaging undergraduate students in the classroom because of its emphasis on experiential learning experiences; interrogating and addressing social problems that may especially impact students from diverse racial/ethnic, socioeconomic,

disability/ability, and linguistic backgrounds; and, as well, because of its influence on critical thinking and problem solving skills (Foster-Fishman et al., 2015; Latz, Phelps-Ward, Royer, & Peters, 2015; Lichty, 2013). Photovoice has also been found to be an effective tool for facilitating more active participation and engagement within a classroom because it prioritizes the co-construction of knowledge, rather than a "banking model" of education that assumes the instructor's role is simply to impart knowledge onto students (Freire, 1970; Lichty 2013). This aspect of photovoice has also made it particularly suited to the CP classroom, where more participatory learning approaches are also emphasized (Lichty, 2013)

Photovoice has also been found to be a meaningful way to facilitate applied learning experiences and community connections on college campuses where community belonging might be particularly low for students (Latz et al., 2015). This is because it has the potential to enhance participants' feelings of concerns for one another and for the settings in which such projects take place (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005). Photovoice projects also may enhance participants' feelings of self-efficacy in regard to improving their environments, including college campuses (Latz et al., 2015; Seitz, Strack, Rice, Moore, DuVall, & Wyrick, 2017). Through photovoice, students can investigate issues that they identify on their campus or in a community-based setting that they may be connected to, which may, in turn make them more motivated to try and press for change within these contexts (Seitz et al., 2017).

Finally, because of its emphasis on shared dialogue and analysis, photovoice may also promote collective learning and reflection in a way that standard classroom lessons might not. Moreover, with Photovoice students felt that their voices, collectively, were heard and well received by the community. In one

example, an undergraduate classroom at a university utilized photovoice to advocate for change in a smoking policy (Seitz, et al., 2017). Through photography training sessions, photo discussion and utilizing the SHOWeD method, students were able to come to shared conclusions about why it was important for administrators to make changes on their campus. They found that there were aesthetic concerns, as well as health concerns for students related to second hand smoke and smokeless tobacco use, that they believed were imperative to address in order to promote well-being among their peers (Seitz et al., 2017). They utilized these themes to put together an exhibit and address the stakeholders in their community, including administrators and their fellow students. They were eventually able to get some policies on campus to change such as moving ashtrays away from common grounds. Students reported that they felt good about their learning experience in this public health class overall, and specifically about their abilities to effect change on their campus as a result (Seitz et al., 2017). However, student outcomes from being engaged in this project (e.g., empowerment), were not systematically assessed.

Photovoice was also utilized as a participatory research process and pedagogical activity that joined graduate students from one institution with community college students from a nearby institution (Latz et al., 2015). The goals of the project were to better understand community college students' lived experiences prior to enrolling at their colleges, and while interacting with campus agents (staff, administration, and faculty), and to help graduate students learn the photovoice method. Additionally, the researchers hoped that the graduate students specifically would come to recognize the diversity in community college students' experiences (that all community college students are not the same), and that information from the project

could be generated that would enhance community college students' experiences on their campus.

Community college student researchers were, indeed, able to share their experiences and perspectives about poverty, financial literacy, and relations with faculty, staff, and administrators. They worked with the graduate students to communicate their good and bad experiences with campus personnel, and specifically, that they felt that their voices were not always heard by the individuals on campus who they sought support from (e.g. faculty). Poverty narratives differed between various students in the project. Some were very personal and others focused more on discussions of poverty in the community. At the conclusion of the project, an exhibition was put on, which many community members attended. The exhibition reportedly educated faculty, administrators, and staff about challenges their students faced and how to address them. Graduate students also reflected on the process when it was over and described feeling that the project was an effective way for them (and their coresearchers) to understand photovoice methodology and, simultaneously, to deepen their understanding of community college students' lives.

*Research Context: Bringing Photovoice to the University of Washington Tacoma*

For many of the reasons described above, I, Rachel, decided to center the Community Psychology, Research, and Action course I taught at UWT in spring 2016 around learning and implementing the photovoice method. In particular, I believed some of the key assets of the method, including its usefulness for connecting individuals from different racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, and language backgrounds together to investigate social issues of importance to them, as well as its focus on the co-construction of knowledge, would complement our campus and student

body (Wang & Burris, 1994; Lichty, 2013; Lykes & Hershberg, 2012).

UWT is one of three schools in the University of Washington system. The school was primarily developed to serve students from Tacoma and the South Sound region. As such, students are from a range of socio-demographic backgrounds: 59% are the first generation in their family to attend college, and of the 5,375 students who enrolled for 2018-19, 42% identified as Caucasian, 21% as Asian American, 14% as Hispanic/Latinx, 12% as African American, 5% as International, 2% as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 2% as Native American (2% did not specify). Over 10% of students are veterans. In addition, our campus is one of 37 universities that is part of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities Coalition (CUSU) (see CUSU, 2018). This means the school has a mission of achieving transformative change through various initiatives, such as “providing opportunities for every student to succeed,” including students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and non-traditional college students (UWT, 2018). Additionally, the school aims to serve the larger community in which it is based through fostering campus-community partnerships.

With these aspects of the school’s mission in mind, I had initially hoped to facilitate photovoice projects with UWT students and several partner organizations in the city of Tacoma. However, time limitations (i.e., quarters are only 12 weeks long), as well as the limitation of me being a relatively new Assistant Professor, with few established community connections to leverage, prevented me from doing this. However, it was also because of my positionality that a friendly colleague informed me that our campus was engaging in the process of developing a 5-year strategic plan that would help the school stay on track regarding putting the values of the USUC into practice.

The faculty and administrators who were leading the development of the plan were seeking input from students on campus as well; my colleague suggested I chat with the faculty member in charge of the process to see if there could be any connections between it and my course. If not for my privileged position as a relatively new assistant professor, I may not have been made privy to this important process, or willing to reach out to colleagues who were leading it. I thus began the quarter with the goal of facilitating a photovoice project for students that we could eventually connect back to the strategic planning process, as part of the objective of enabling students to share the work they would produce with decision-makers on campus. This was one of four objectives that guided my use of photovoice in the community psychology classroom, as described below in more detail.

#### *Classroom Context and Participants*

As mentioned above, the Community Psychology, Research and Action class was the first community psychology class ever offered at UWT. Sometimes, new courses are avoided by students, so I was particularly pleased when 25 students enrolled in the course. Out of the 25 students, 21 were psychology majors, and all but one were juniors and seniors. Seventeen students (68%) identified as white, and eight (32%) identified as students of color. Among the students of color in the class, three identified as black or African American, two identified as Native American, one identified as Arab-American, one as Indian-Afghan, and another identified as Puerto Rican. Sixteen (68%) students identified as female, and eight (32%) students identified as male. One (0.04%) student identified as gender neutral. Twenty-four students identified as heterosexual, and one female student identified as gay. Students were twenty-four years of age on average. Eight (32%) students identified as parents. Thirteen students (52%) identified as first-

generation college students. Compared to our University's demographics, there were more females, white students, and fewer first-generation college students in our class. The description of the course, which students had access to before enrolling was: Introduces community psychology, a field examining the interrelationship between individual well-being and the multiple social systems with which individuals interact. Covers the principles and approaches of community psychology, including attention to diversity and equity; social change; and community-based, participatory, and action research methods.

#### *Learning Objectives and Anticipated Outcomes*

With the characteristics of UWT and our class in mind, as well as the previous literature, I developed several learning objectives that guided my use of photovoice in the classroom. As noted in the course description above, one goal of the course was to help students learn about the field of CP in general, and guiding values more specifically (e.g., respect for diversity, caring and compassion, collaboration and participation, Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2010). I believed that facilitating a photovoice project wherein students would be coresearchers/participants would be an effective way to achieve this goal for two primary reasons (Lichty, 2013). First, participatory approaches like photovoice are, in and of themselves, core to practicing CP. Engaging in them highlights that knowledge is subjective and co-constructed and that minoritized individuals are well-poised to investigate and document their realities in partnership with researchers and practitioners who may or may not be from their communities (Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2010; Lichty, 2013). CP as a field is committed to these tenets (e.g., Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2010). Second, successfully implementing a participatory research project requires not only learning about but

enacting CP values (Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2010). As noted above, for example, photovoice projects that do not include consistent group participation have been found to be less likely to promote positive outcomes among participants (Catalani & Minkler, 2010). Moreover, one of the strengths of photovoice is that individuals from diverse backgrounds, and especially individuals who are from different minoritized communities, can come together and reflect on shared concerns and challenges and work to collectively redress these challenges (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005; Latz et al., 2015; Lykes & Hershberg, 2012).

A second key objective was for students in this course to gain familiarity with and practice photovoice as a systematic and analytical research method within psychology and related fields. Through practicing the method, my hope was that students would eventually add it to their toolbox of research methods for use in their future careers or studies. I myself gained familiarity with the method from being a participant in a photovoice project as part of an advanced Research Training Seminar for Community Psychologists in South Africa facilitated by expert photovoice practitioners Shanaaz Suffla and Umesh Bawa (e.g., Seedat, Suffla & Bawa, 2015). It seemed that "learning this method through doing it" could also be an effective pedagogical approach to use with undergraduates in the community psychology classroom (Lichty, 2013).

A third learning objective I had was for students to experience a greater sense of community through being a part of this class-wide project. As defined by McMillan and Chavez (1986), sense of community is "a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together (p. 9)." I was specifically hopeful that students would

develop a greater sense of belonging or relatedness through engaging together in a project about their experiences of UWT (McMillan & Chavez, 1986). This objective was important to me because in previous courses, I had heard that some students felt very disconnected from campus, in part because many commuted from far away and did not spend much time on campus aside from going to and from their classes. Additionally, many students had families and jobs outside of campus that reportedly prevented them from going to on-campus events that might facilitate bonding with other students and even their instructors. Feelings of disconnection and isolation at campuses like UWT, which aim to serve a significant number of nontraditional students who had more of an indirect path to and through college, and have other competing commitments, as well as traditionally-aged students who are fresh out of high school and may seek more of a residential college experience, has been documented (Bensimon, 2007). However, examples in the literature of college campuses where students from these different backgrounds forge relationships and connections to one another, are scarce. Thus, through engaging in this project, I hoped students in this class, who also represent some of these varying identities, would feel more connected to their peers, the classroom, and the campus at large. Furthermore, I hoped this project would at least offer some ideas for how sense of community might be enhanced in classrooms and colleges like UWT.

Finally, a fourth learning objective was for students to experience some degree of empowerment through investigating some aspect of their college experience vis-à-vis the strategic plan, and hopefully, sharing their research with policymakers on campus. Through doing this, I also hoped students would feel a greater sense of self-efficacy in

regard to affecting change on their college campuses, and perhaps, in their communities more broadly (Catalini & Minkler, 2010; Foster-Fishman et al., 2005). Greater empowerment has been found to be associated with a number of health and well-being outcomes in youth and adults (Ballard & Ozer, 2016). However, when the course began, I was not exactly sure what opportunities would be available for students to present their work to stakeholders on campus. Thus, this was a learning objective I had in mind, but was not as formative in my planning process until the end of the quarter, once students had successfully completed their photovoice project.

## Methods

### *Photovoice Curriculum and Assignments*

Throughout the quarter, I included multiple assignments and activities that corresponded to each of the learning objectives described above. In Table 1, components and corresponding learning objectives are listed. Also listed are some additional activities I facilitated with the goal of trying to continue to foster empowerment processes for students, particularly regarding their abilities to effect change on campus and in their communities and society. (objective 4) (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005). Here, I speak broadly about how I aimed to achieve these objectives. Student authors then individually reflect on the course components that each found particularly meaningful and connect them back to these objectives, in their own words. We then collectively discuss majors impacts of the photovoice process, and as well, challenges or limitations in regard to achieving each objective within the context of our classroom and campus. Here, we bring in the literature described above. We close with lessons learned for future instructors and photovoice participants to consider.

Table 1. *Photovoice Activities and Corresponding Learning Objectives*

Activity	Objective			
	(1) Learning about CP and CP values	(2) Practice photovoice, add method to toolbox	(3) Develop greater sense of community	(4) Experience empowerment and greater self-efficacy
Introductory presentation about photovoice.	X	X		
Photography training by expert photographer.		X		
Guest Lecturer-photovoice in Nursing Sciences.		X		
Class assignment- empirical studies reviewed, CP values identified.	X	X		
Small-group and class-wide discussions about topics.	X	X	X	
Photographs taken and three are sent to instructor with captions.		X		
Class goes through SHOWeD method in small groups.	X	X	X	
Class discusses within- and across-group themes.	X	X	X	
Five volunteers and work together to develop posters based on each theme	X	X		
Coauthor present at Strategic Planning Meeting.		X		X
Students have option of conducting additional photovoice projects for final.		X		
Nine students do this and present work to class.				
Coauthors present photovoice at UWT Undergraduate Research Symposium.		X		X
Photovoice posters are hung in library through summer.				X
Coauthors present photovoice at Community Research and Action in the West.	X		X	X

As depicted in Table 1, throughout the quarter I designed activities and assignments that I hoped would enable students to see how photovoice, as a participatory research method, also reflected the values of CP. I also wanted students to recognize that engaging in

a photovoice project, even within the confines of an undergraduate classroom, required enacting some of the values of CP. Between weeks 1 and 2, I helped students make these connections by giving a presentation on the photovoice method historically and its main

components, while also assigning chapters 1-3 in Nelson and Prilleltensky's (2010) *Community Psychology: In Pursuit of Liberation and Wellbeing*, which introduces readers to the field of CP and overarching principles and values. I also had students complete the assignment of reading the Flint Photovoice Project facilitated by Caroline Wang and colleagues (2004), and identifying how values came up in the project. The post they had to respond to was as follows: Read the article attached to this module about the Flint Photovoice Project. As you read this article, think back to our discussion on Monday, April 4 about values in community psychology and identify a least one value from our discussion (or from the PPT posted for April 4) that seems to be emphasized in this project. In your discussion post, describe the value you identified and note how it comes through in the Flint project (or, in other words, note an aspect of the project that reflects this value). Also identify a value that you hope is emphasized in our class-wide Photovoice project.

As the quarter continued, I repeatedly reminded students of the main CP values we had read about throughout the quarter. These also come up throughout the textbook, which helped to reinforce students' learning about them. I described these again as an entree into their engagement in the SHOWed method of analysis in small groups (during week 5). During one group meeting, it also came to the fore that there were disagreements about which photos to use in the next iteration of the project. One student was attached to her photos while members of her group believed that at least one of her photos was not relevant to the class project. When the class came back together, I reminded them of the flexibility in the method, and that individual as well as collective interpretations were essential aspects of the group analysis process. As described below by Wilkinson, these discussions reportedly helped this small-group leverage values of participation

and collaboration, and respective for diversity, as they tried to resolve their disagreement.

In addition to helping students learn and practice CP principles and values, I had hoped this project would enable students to learn how to do photovoice and view it as a systematic and analytical method that could be used in the college classroom and beyond. Almost all class components involved some element of learning about photovoice and how to do it. These included having students read empirical articles about the method, giving lectures on photovoice, and inviting a guest lecturer to the class who had used the photovoice method in his participatory and action research with Latina mothers of children with asthma (see Postma, Evans-Agnew, & Capouya, 2015 for more information). This instructor graciously presented about this work and allowed students to ask him questions about challenges and limitations he and his co-researchers experienced during the process. Additionally, to help students learn how to do photovoice, the class involved all major components of the photovoice method described in previous literature, including photography training sessions, topic selection, taking photos, small- and large-group analysis and discussion of photos, and presenting research findings to decision-makers. Importantly, as part of this process, students were also exposed to qualitative research practices more generally, and learned about what themes were, and how to identify themes as salient in a project (we talked about description of salient themes as themes that were recurrent and highly relevant to research questions, drawing from Buetow, 2010). A final component of the class aimed at helping students learn how to do photovoice (aside from students actually engaging in the class-wide photovoice project throughout the course) was that, for their culminating class project, they could choose to do a more conventional research paper

about a social issues of importance to them and the field of CP, or conduct their own photovoice projects in small groups and write up a report. Nine students (across four small groups) decided to do this for their final projects (including five of the coauthors). Through engaging in these projects as facilitators, students had the opportunity to enhance and demonstrate their familiarity and knowledge of photovoice as a systematic analytical method. Through multiple experiential opportunities, I believed this method would become a future resource for students.

To address the third objective of enhancing students' sense of community, we engaged in small- and large-group discussions as part of the photovoice process throughout the quarter. These discussions included conversations about what questions should guide students' photography; their small-group and large-group SHOWeD analyses; and even on-line discussions wherein students discussed their reviews of photovoice articles, as well as different concepts in CP. When meeting in person, students met in the same groups they engaged in on-line. Through staying in the same groups throughout the quarter, I hoped students would develop additional friendships and ties to one another, and see the value in having different perspectives that could be respectfully engaged in a photovoice project (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005). I also sought to foster these ties for students through bringing students to a regional community psychology conference or Portland State University in October 2016 (Community Research and Action in the West). Through the community psychology conference, and presenting their research to community psychologists as well as students in community psychology programs, I also hoped students would feel more confident about their developing research skills, and as well, about their competencies as change agents in their school. Importantly, this

experience built on their culminating presentation to the strategic planning committee in May of 2016. I had the opportunity to facilitate this presentation for students due to previously-established ties, as mentioned above. Nevertheless, students' presentation to this committee appeared to have a significant impact on students, and on the project at large, as described below.

### **Student Reflections on "Strengths and Challenges of Being a UWT Student"- A Photovoice Project Implemented within an Undergraduate CP Classroom**

In this next section, we, Halimatue Hill, Olivia Andringa, Sarah Wilkinson, Becca Smith, Katie Camm, and Josh Little describe what each of us consider to be the most impactful aspects of the photovoice project on our learning and development. We also share some reflections about which particular outcomes we believe these project components influenced in us. For ease of reading, the title of each subsection includes the name of the coauthor whose reflections are being presented.

#### *Halimatu's Perspective: Learning About and Experiencing CP Values and Empowerment Processes through Presentations and Student-led Research*

There were two aspects of this class and project that impacted my understanding of photovoice as an important, accessible, and potentially empowering research method. These aspects of the class also helped me appreciate the CP values and principles we read about throughout the course. The first was the visit from a professor from the School of Nursing at UWT. The professor came to our class and presented on his project with Latina mothers of children with asthma. He also allowed for us to ask questions about his work and photovoice more generally. From his presentation in particular, I grasped how the photovoice method can create a platform

for addressing social issues among participants from different backgrounds, and how it can be used to effect change in the community. The professor, an expert on asthma, was a White male, for example, while the coresearchers in the project were Mexican mothers. The professor addressed these dynamics and also spoke of challenges that arose during the project, including language barriers (he admitted to knowing very little Spanish while all the mothers were primarily Spanish speakers). He also talked about how challenges themselves enriched the process through honest discussions and reflections. In addition, he addressed the importance of ethics surrounding such a project with a primary concern being not interjecting the researcher's "voice" into the project but allowing the women to express themselves. He also elaborated that the actual process involved more than just taking pictures. It also included getting funding, meetings, challenges, training as well as the analysis of the photos taken by the Latina mothers. From his presentation, the many steps involved in doing photovoice well were evident, as were the important role that CP values, such as collaboration and respect for diversity, played in the process. The potential for photovoice to also be an empowering process was also clear from his presentation as he described how the mothers on the project have since gone on to educate others about asthma triggers in the environment.

I additionally experienced photovoice as empowering when Dr. Hershberg gave the class the opportunity to decide together what we would investigate, rather than dictating it for us. Dr. Hershberg mentioned that the school was working on rebranding itself and that she thought it would be great if our project could contribute to this discussion. However, she left it up to us to decide what topics we thought were important to investigate related to our campus community. Through small-group and large-group

discussion our class of 25 students eventually agreed on three main topics that would guide the project: challenges to building community, challenges and strengths of being a UWT student, and uniting communities. We agreed that these topics were similar enough to ensure that we could eventually put together one cohesive project, but broad enough so that students' different interests and concerns were accounted for. We also agreed to revise the title of our project at the end of the quarter to ensure it more directly reflected our final product (at the Conclusion of our project, we agreed to move forward with one of the initial topics as our title: "Strengths and Challenges of Being a UWT Student").

*Olivia's Perspective: Developing Community through Photography and Group Discussion*

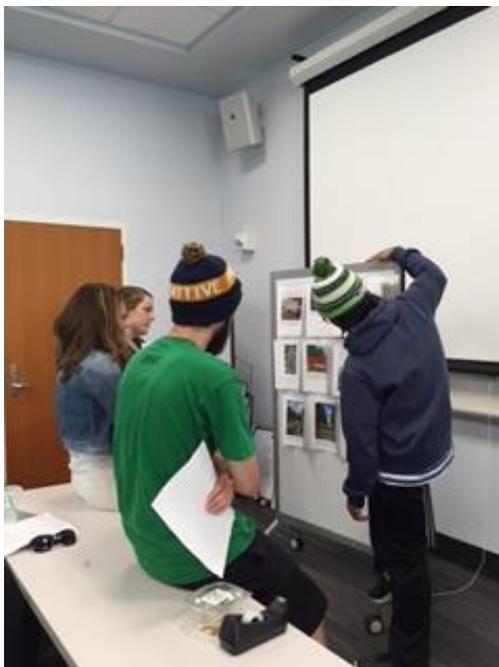
Out of all of the photovoice steps we engaged in, I found the photography aspect itself, and our initial small-group discussion about our photos, to be the most meaningful aspects. When I set out to photograph our campus with the guiding topics in mind, I felt that I was viewing our campus with a new and critical lens. I also felt that this lens was providing another form of a voice for me to have on our campus. This was particularly meaningful for me as I often am reluctant to voice my views publicly. When students came together to discuss the photos they took and their interpretations of them, this also allowed me to feel that my views were shared and validated, and to recognize similarities and differences among the students in our class. After our group discussion, it was interesting for the class to take a step back and see the campus from a new perspective—one that was collectively developed. Additionally, through developing these new views of our school based on individual as well as shared experiences and interpretations, I realized that our campus offers a lot of positive opportunities (see Poster 1 in Appendix B), but also presents

some emotional barriers for students such as loneliness and a lack of community. Using the photovoice method helped us to learn more about one another's experiences and views, to better understand our campus, and to feel more connected to one another.

*Sarah's Perspective: Learning Photovoice and Enacting CP Values through the SHOWeD Method*

As described above, an important part of this project was also systematically going through the SHOWeD method in small groups. I found this process to be very positive and validating for me as a student. It also forced us to use the CP values we had been reading and writing about throughout the class. I will describe this experience here; it is also depicted below (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. *Small-group Analysis using SHOWeD Method*



When going through SHOWeD method using one of my own photos (see Figure 2), I explained what I saw when I was taking the photo and what I wanted other people to see,

which was that students at UWT feel disconnected from one another. The picture I took clearly shows multiple people sitting on the stairs alone, lost in their phones, completely unaware of each other.

Figure 2. *Photovoice Image "The distance between all of us"*



When you look at these people, do they seem close to one another? Technology and social media have been huge factors in why people are so disconnected, even with people sitting right beside them.

During our group discussion, my peers brought to my attention how impactful my photo was. Not only was I able to capture disconnection and loneliness from the individuals in my photo, but the lighting and the layering of the stairs in the picture were apparently able to depict that as well. This was something that I hadn't even realized when choosing this photo. Their recognition of these additional elements of the photo enhanced my confidence in my abilities as a photovoice researcher and helped me to see that my peers also felt kind of isolated and disconnected from one another, even those who did not have multiple children and jobs outside of work like I had.

As part of the SHOWeD process, Dr. Hershberg also instructed each small group to select the five photos that best reflected our shared experiences and concerns as related to our guiding topics (e.g., challenges to building community, challenges and strengths of being a UWT student, and uniting communities). This was hard because many of the photos were so interesting and different from one another. Through some tense discussion, my group agreed that we would alter a caption of a photo (see Figure 3) that one student developed so that it included some of the ideas from another caption accompanying another photo that ultimately was not selected as part of our final five photos. We agreed to do this so that all students in our group would have some aspect of their photovoice work (i.e., their pictures or the captions they created) included in the larger project. The end result was a meaningful photo with an equally meaningful caption that reflected multiple voices from our group. This experience offered us the opportunity to witness the importance of prioritizing respect for diversity when using the photovoice method, as well as caring and compassion, values that are also essential to the practice of CP.

Figure 3. *Combined caption and photo from small-group analysis*



In Tacoma, the military is an important presence. In the military, as is in the University of Washington community group, the LGBT community is a faction that is

struggling for legitimacy. Relatively speaking, the short journey of embarking on a college education can be painful, arduous, and for the most part, improbable for the vast majority of young LGBT youth. Despite being one of the most LGBT friendly cities in Washington, newcomers to this area still have trouble assimilating and getting equality, recognition, and consequently, employment outside of college because of their sexuality. Even if they have served in the military their service may be undermined by discrimination they face for their sexual orientation. Every life matters and should be celebrated instead of marginalized on campus and in the larger communities of which UWT students are a part.

*Katie's Perspective: Developing Community through Group Dialogue and Dissemination*

I found that our class-wide discussions, though difficult at times, were when we as a class really developed stronger relationships with one another. However, as with any close relationship, this process required some conflict resolution. Specifically, once our small groups had finished discussing their photos, we came together as a class to discuss what themes were most salient across groups. As we began the conversation, we found that some topics were easily agreed upon, such as the issues of limited parking on campus, or the lack of social and community spaces for to use. Other topics seemed to provoke more dissension than agreement, such as what it meant to be a UWT student and how much of an impact UWT students have on the Tacoma and South Sound communities. At times, there was a palpable awkward tension, such as when people disagreed with one another about what themes were salient across groups. Here, Dr. Hershberg acted as a facilitator, asking questions to help us move from thinking about individual impressions of photos, to collective views that also may reflect experiences of other UWT students.

At one point, we discussed how multiple individuals took the same picture of the W, which is our school symbol in our courtyard area, which suggested something significant about the symbol of the W on our campus. However, each person had different interpretations of what the W meant to them. As a class, we agreed to keep all three of the images of the W in the project because each picture evoked powerful, but different experiences such as loneliness, lack of school pride, and students' feelings that although UWT was perceived as an important asset to Tacoma, it was not recognized as valuable to the wider UW community.

Figure 4. Photovoice Image "The W"



What has brought us all together is a common decision to attend UWT. We are told we are huskies but it doesn't feel this way. Our W does not really give us a sense of belonging to the entity. I have felt like my degree is less than Seattle's campus because we have a signifier. We also do not get similar perks and are limited in many aspects, such as the graduation debacle that has happened recently. Punishing people with larger families by only affording 5 tickets. We spent money on a metal W to be on our campus, but we cannot afford to have a larger venue? I am a husky, I deserve to have all of the rights afforded that amazing signifier.

We also noticed an overwhelming number of pictures that depicted the problems related to parking around campus (e.g., limited spaces, too expensive). As a group, we came to a decision to leave some of these repeated images in our project to give more power to those specific concerns. By engaging in a class-wide discussion that was facilitated by a community psychologist like Dr. Hershberg, it seemed we were about to create a stronger sense of cohesion and community in the class, while also recognizing the diversity of our group.

I also felt a strong sense of community through this project when I had the chance to present our research to the university's strategic planning committee at the end of spring quarter (depicted in Figure 5). During the discussion with the administration, we displayed our posters on the walls of the meeting space, and went through our Method and our five overarching themes: (Potential) Strengths of UWT, Disconnection from UWT, Parking as a Barrier to Academic Engagement, Lack of Community Space, and Isolation and Loneliness. There was one poster dedicated to illustrating each theme (see Appendix B).

Figure 5. Photo from presentation to Strategic Planning Committee



During this presentation, I was pleased to see so many administrators and faculty attending to what we were saying. Furthermore, after the presentation, administrators approached us to ask clarifying questions about our research and discuss solutions to the challenges we had presented. Following the colloquium, the strategic planning committee

also emailed the group a response stating that our presentation was one of the most vivid and moving moments in the past ten months of the committee's work and that the presentation "brought data they had collected previously and separately, to life." Parking, for example, had been identified as a significant student barrier to academic success. They said that our presentation had made this issue a more tangible reality. They spoke about continuing to make student engagement a high priority in response to the isolation that students were feeling as well. The committee wanted to make sure that students continued being engaged, so that they were more likely to graduate and live a fulfilled life. That administrators attended to our research during the presentation, and followed up with us after, made me feel like they actually cared about us students, and took us seriously as budding researchers. Through this experience, I also felt more connected to and invested in UWT.

*Becca's Perspective: Gaining Confidence in Photovoice and my Research Skills through Presenting at Conferences*

One of the most impactful experiences that I had with photovoice was presenting to our fellow students and professors at the UWT Undergraduate Symposium. The presentation was very well received. Students who we spoke with agreed that many of these topics were issues on campus. They hoped this project would help the administration see what could be improved. Many of the professors who I interacted with said that these were problems that they also dealt with, especially in regard to parking on campus. They engaged me in conversations about how this method could be used within their classrooms and across campus, and what we might be able to do as a group to include quantitative data collection in this process in the future. This enhanced my confidence in the photovoice method and its ability to accurately capture individual and

collective experiences. It was helpful to understand the profound impact that these issues had on other students and faculty at UWT. Having conversations about our research and the future possibilities for photovoice in other communities was an enriching experience that has continued to influence me. I am currently utilizing photovoice and the SHOWeD method within my research at UWT in the Urban Studies field. I feel confident that this method is a great way to address stakeholders and to work toward needed changes in one's community.

*Joshua's Perspective: Experiencing Empowerment throughout the Photovoice Process*

Similar to Katie and Becca, I too was significantly and positively impacted by having the opportunity to co-present our research to administrators and faculty on the strategic planning committee in May 2016, and in other forms, including the community psychology conference we attended in October 2016. However, I first began to feel a sense of empowerment through the photovoice project when walking around the campus early in the quarter, looking for a photograph to capture. It was when I saw the abandoned building, and had the idea of how that building represented myself as a Black man in our society, in my community, and as a student. As seen in figure 7 you have this old abandoned building with broken windows and deteriorating paint that is scheduled to be remodeled. Right next to this abandoned building are buildings that the university had remodeled, so the building in the photograph sticks out on campus and doesn't look like it belongs. Sticking out and not belonging is what I have felt and have been implicitly and explicitly told my whole life. But that is only the surface, the first thoughts one has when they see this building, and therefore, when they see me. At second look, and under the layers, a full story worth knowing can be told. Making these

connections between the building on campus and my own experiences reminded me that my story is unique, worth being told, and like this building, not finished.

Figure 6. *Photovoice Image "Abandoned building on campus"*



*When you look at me what do you see? Am I casted off as being worthless? Do I give your eyes strain and make you want to turn away? Or maybe its...*

*Let me tell you what I see when I look at me. I see the potential of what I can be. A structure that has weathered many storms and still stands.*

Having the opportunity to talk about this photo, and the caption I included with it was a powerful experience for me and reinforced some of the ideas I had when first taking the photo. Additionally, the opportunity to present the project and talk openly about this photo and my analysis to administrators and faculty inspired self-confidence in me. Having the chance to contribute to the discussion on changes to come in the university's trajectory made me feel like I could make a difference on our campus. Furthermore, standing in front of the committee members, who are were all various chancellors and deans of different programs and departments, allowed me, a young Black male, to share thoughts and feelings with people I would have otherwise never come in contact with.

Seeing the way they all were focused on what I had to say, and hearing their positive feedback, made me feel like what I had to say mattered. This experience, and the conference in Portland, also made me realize that I might have a talent for public speaking.

Since graduating from the University of Washington Tacoma in spring 2016, I have been involved in several other public speaking opportunities. One of these opportunities was facilitating a Washington State Youth Leadership Training at Green Hill School, a maximum Juvenile Rehabilitation facility. In doing this training, I shared my experience with Photovoice and presenting it to the Strategic Planning Committee with 24 youth, incarcerated at Green Hill, who attended the training. The purpose of me sharing the story was to inspire these youths that someone like them can have a voice. In conclusion, the opportunity to speak about concerns and strengths I saw within the campus, to an audience of powerful but seemingly committed authority figures, gave me a sense of accomplishment that did not exist in any of my other college courses. What started off as just another course towards my Bachelor's degree turned into something more. It set the mental foundation that I could not only bring awareness to issues, but also conduct myself as a leader and articulate those issues to people in power to create change. I have come to recognize that these empowering experiences have been vital in my career and personal development ever since.

### **Discussion of Findings and Implications for Instructors**

Photovoice as a research method that is becoming increasingly popular in CP also holds promise for revolutionizing the college classroom, and the psychology classroom in particular (Lichty, 2013). As presented here, Hershberg experimented with focusing her CP class on the development and

implementation of a photovoice project by students, and it seems to have yielded several important outcomes, in relation to both students' learning about the field of CP and participatory research methods, and their development as students and people in the world. We discuss these outcomes in regard to the literature reviewed above, and identify some lessons learned for future instructors to consider as they too begin experimenting with photovoice as a pedagogical tool in the undergraduate classroom.

One of the great insights from student reflections was that by engaging in the photovoice process from start to finish, they experienced some of the tensions that come up in participatory research projects more generally (such as how to ensure equal participation among participants is promoted throughout the process, and shared decision-making, e.g., Lykes & Herhsberg, 2012). To address these challenges, students also then had to directly engage with some of the CP values they were introduced to throughout the quarter- namely collaboration and participation as well as respect for diversity. By refocusing their concerns on the goals of respect for diversity (i.e., respect and appreciation for diverse social identities and perspectives) and collaboration (i.e., seeking and honoring input from all participants), students were able to respectfully come to some agreement about which photos and themes to select for the photovoice posters, both in small and large groups (Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2010). These experiential components of the photovoice process were able to "bring to life" the course content (Lichty, 2013, p. 96) in meaningful ways for students that appeared to stick with them long after the process ended. One lesson learned from student reflections in this area is that instructors should be open from the beginning of a course about how challenges will come up when engaging students in a participatory research process. Dr. Hershberg was upfront about this, which helped the

group productively address concerns as they arose...rather than letting them simmer or boil over. Additionally, placing an emphasis on values and principles regarding engaging in participatory research- throughout the duration of a course- can make such values and principles a resource for students as they embark on resolving conflicts within their group processes. As Dr. Hershberg noted, learning about and enacting CP values was, indeed, a goal of this course, and one that seemed to be achieved.

Another important insight was that students seemed to really come to understand what a rigorous photovoice process entailed (learning objective 2). They successfully articulated this process in multiple forums, and having the opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge in these ways also seemed to make students more confident about their research skills (as Joshua noted, such experiences "inspired self-confidence" in him). However, when reflecting on the most impactful aspects of the course, students did not reference their final photovoice projects, even though five of the six student coauthors engaged in these projects. It is possible that this last element of the course did not help students crystallize the components of the research method in the way that Hershberg had imagined it would. The guest lecturer's presentation about his photovoice work, for example, appeared to make more of an impact on students' learning about the method. It's possible that assigning final photovoice projects at the end of a course may not be necessary for helping students learn about photovoice as a systematic and analytical method...but perhaps presenting students with different examples of photovoice projects, across disciplines, and engaging in multimodal techniques to present such information (e.g., empirical article reviews, guest visits) is.

Additional course objectives that also appeared in students' reflections on their

photovoice experiences related to enhancing their sense of community in the classroom and on campus. Previous research has also identified that these are some of the ways in which photovoice projects can benefit the participants, particularly on college campuses (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005; Latz et al., 2015). In regard to developing a sense of community, Olivia and Sarah described that opportunities for group analysis and discussion of their photos with one another enabled them to see some of the ways in which they were similar to their peers, but also different from them. The majority of students in the class agreed, for example, that one of the challenges of being a UWT student relates to parking expenses. They also agreed that parking expenses conflict with UWT's value of providing access to students from lower-income backgrounds.

Other students identified the challenge of achieving balance in one's life regarding being a full-time parent and student. Although, as Olivia noted, not all students had to deal with this latter challenge, knowing that their peers did, however, reportedly made them feel like they had a better understanding of their peers and their student body overall. It also helped them to understand why students seemed to feel so disconnected from one another. In this way, it appeared that the SHOWeD method of analysis was also a mechanism through which students came to better understand and value diversity within their classroom and on their campus more broadly (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005). This suggests that the photovoice method may be particularly effective in classrooms and universities that specifically recruit students from an array of socio-demographic backgrounds, and as well, with very different life experiences. urban-serving universities in particular aim to attract and support both traditional college students who begin their college experiences right after graduating from high school, and nontraditional students, who often include students who transferred from community colleges as well

as working parents. The photovoice method may be particularly useful for helping these members of a student body develop a greater sense of connection and community to one another, outcomes that are also believed to be essential for academic success (Bensimon, 2007; Latz et al., 2015).

Finally, an additional outcome that student coauthors reflected on was their empowerment experiences throughout the project. Halimatu mentioned that even when initially learning about another example of photovoice, wherein Latina mothers of children with asthma eventually became health advocates in their communities, she saw the potential for photovoice to empower participants from diverse racial/ethnic, economic, and linguistic backgrounds. Joshua especially spoke to these outcomes when reflecting on his own experiences of the project. He highlighted that having the opportunity to capture his perspective about his experiences as a student (though photography), and to then present it to powerful players on our campus who listened to and appeared to value his views, made him feel like his perspective and knowledge mattered. These feelings were reinforced for Joshua and all other student coauthors when they received positive feedback and even words of thanks from administrators on campus regarding their photovoice work. Joshua was also able to draw on this experience two years after the photovoice project ended in his current work as a case worker to young men in juvenile detention, with the aim of inspiring them and helping them recognize that they too have a voice and can affect change in their communities.

One important take-away message is that administrators and other powerful agents on college campuses (faculty and staff, Latz et al., 2015), can make a positive impact on their students by providing opportunities for them to share their perspectives and specific university-based research experiences with

them. Such opportunities may also help students feel more confident about their research skills, and more eager to continue pursuing graduate study or career paths that require such skills (Goodhart et al., 2006). This may be an underutilized resource on college campuses that has the potential to significantly impact students' success while in college and well into their careers (as Joshua described).

Student reflections about their empowerment experiences within this project also mirror some of the findings described in previous photovoice research. It seems that participants may experience photovoice projects as especially empowering when significant amounts of time within such projects are devoted to facilitating group participation and dialogue (Minkler & Catalani, 2010). These elements appeared to be built into the use of photovoice in the community psychology classroom described here. Additionally, research suggests that empowerment outcomes are more likely to be facilitated for participants in a photovoice project when, as part of their participation, they are also given support and scaffolding as they develop competencies and skills that might be necessary for engaging in their communities and larger sociopolitical contexts (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005). More specifically, photovoice projects that also promote participants' critical consciousness about social and systemic forces that might be contributing to the social issues they are investigating are believed to be effective for promoting empowerment in participants, and specifically, participants coming to view themselves as efficacious and knowledgeable change agents.

It is important to note here that although the class was inherently about understanding social issues and systemic injustices due to its focus on the field of CP, more time could have been dedicated to helping students connect the issues they identified in their projects to

larger social and systemic forces on and off campus. Why, for example, were students forced to pay such high parking costs on a daily basis, despite the school's focus on providing access and facilitating academic success for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds? Although students in the class were able to convey to the administrators their shared concerns about parking, they did not connect these concerns to a more systemic analysis of these challenges. The same could be said for participants' descriptions of challenges related to being a full-time parent and student. Thus, an additionally important lesson learned for educators who may want to incorporate this method in their undergraduate classroom is to help students connect their projects to more critical analyses of the social and political forces influencing the topics they choose to focus on. In a CP classroom, this may mean making more explicit connections between the photovoice project that students conduct, and previous research and actions that have come out of CP (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005).

An additional limitation of this project was that the impact of the project on each student in the class, and the class as a whole, was not sufficiently assessed. Thus, the outcomes of the project described by student coauthors cannot be applied to all participants in the classroom. However, that all students appeared to passionately engage in small- and large group analyses and discussions of their photos suggested that the majority of the class had some interest and engagement in the project. Additionally, that nine students chose to pursue photovoice projects for their final, suggested to the instructor that students had some comfort with the photovoice method and could add it to their research methods toolbox. Alternatively, students' enthusiasm could have reflected their awareness that they were going to receive a grade for their photovoice participation. Thus, another lesson for

instructors who may wish to bring this method into their classroom is to plan ahead to evaluate its impact on all students in the classroom, perhaps in the middle of the quarter or semester, and at the end. If possible, circulating a long-term assessment tool (even a one-question survey) six months later could also be an effective way to gauge if the project has any long-lasting impacts on students (e.g., regarding their knowledge of CP, sense of community, self-efficacy, etc.) (Foster-Fishman et al., 2005).

Another limitation is that it is still unclear exactly how the project impacted the campus. The project continues to be advertised on UWT's website as an example of how student experiences have been incorporated in the strategic plan (<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/initiatives/index.html>). However, it is not clear which of the initiatives that have been implemented since the May 2016 strategic planning committee meeting were directly or even indirectly influenced by the students' photovoice presentation. Parking challenges persist for students, for example. However, more community and social spaces have indeed been developed. Building in some mechanism for following up with administrators to assess the impact such projects are having on university may be important for educators who wish to experiment with this method on their campus.

### Conclusions

Despite these limitations, we believe that photovoice may be an effective and even inspiring tool for instructors to use in the undergraduate classroom, and in the CP classroom in particular. In addition to learning about, enacting, and adopting some of the values of CP, through doing photovoice students in our class enhanced their participatory research skills and gained a greater sense of community and self-efficacy, particularly regarding their abilities to effect

change on our campus and in their larger communities. Moreover, through having the opportunity to present their research to powerful leaders on campus, some students (including student coauthors) were reassured that their voices mattered, while senior faculty and administrators were reminded that our students are researchers and change agents in the making. We suggest that photovoice has the potential to transform the lives of those who do it, but also of those who view it, and hope it will increasingly be used in the undergraduate CP classroom and beyond.

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**Appendix A**

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TPSYCH 306: Community Psychology, Research, and Action  
Spring Quarter, 2016  
MW(F) 9:30am – 10:50am  
Dougan 280

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**Instructor:** Rachel Hershberg, Ph.D.  
**Office:** McDonald Smith, 103D  
**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11:30-1:00 and by appointment  
**Email:** rmhersh@uw.edu  
**Course Website:** CANVAS

**Overview**

This course will introduce students to Community Psychology, a field of psychology that examines the interrelationship between individual well-being and the multiple social systems with which individuals interact (including neighborhoods, cultural practices, educational institutions, etc.). Students will learn about the history of the field, key concepts and values, and some of the community-based research projects that have been developed and implemented by community psychologists and the communities with which they work, toward the promotion of social justice and well-being. Students will practice using one research method in community psychology, and also begin thinking about projects they could develop in Tacoma that reflect the key principles and approaches of Community Psychology, including attention to diversity and equity, social change, and community-based and participatory and action research methods.

**Readings**

The Community psychology textbook listed below will be our main text for this course. However, readings from this textbook may be supplemented with empirical examples of community-based and participatory and action research, as well as reflection pieces written and co-written by academics and practitioners on different kinds of community-based and participatory research studies. These supplemental readings will be available on Canvas.

*Nelson, G., & Prilleltensky, I. (2010). Community psychology: In pursuit of liberation and well-being. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-10: 0230219950*

***Student Learning Outcomes***

After taking this course, you should be able to

- Understand the main historical influences and contemporary approaches to community psychology
- Learn about the values community psychologists use to guide their work and identify your own research values
- Think critically about power, inequality, and marginality and how these factors play a part in your own life and in the lives of others, and if and how community psychology and the kinds of activism associated with this field can be used to redress systems of inequality
- Become familiar with organizations and other resources in the Tacoma area that contribute to individual, familial, community- and/or societal well-being
- Apply an ecological perspective and lens of community psychology to investigating contemporary society and how education, law, government, health—and associated institutions—may contribute to inequitable distributions of power and privilege in society, with

consequences for the well-being of particular groups

- Use some of the vocabulary and main concepts of the field of community psychology in your future research projects, and as you critically examine your work in other disciplines

The following SLOs for the Psychology Major are addressed through this course:

- Understand the core concepts and methodologies of psychology, including what scientific psychology is, the contributions and limitations of different methods of empirical research, and be able to apply research methods, including design, data analysis and interpretation.
- Be able to read and interpret verbally, and in writing, psychological research
- Understand the application of psychological principles to the understanding of social issues.

**Expectations:** This class will include a combination of interactive lectures, in-class and on-line group activities and discussions, quizzes, and visits from guest lecturers who engage in community-based and participatory research. The course will also be centered around research methods used in community psychology, and specifically, the Photovoice method. To excel in this course, you have to fulfill the responsibility of coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings for that day and to participate in lectures and activities. This means you are expected to have completed assigned readings *before* coming to class. You are also expected to be present and attentive when we have visits from guest lecturers. Your presence in class, and in our on-line community, are, thus, vital to the success of our class and to your own learning. If you cannot attend class on a particular day, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate and to keep up with the readings. The main textbook for this course can be purchased in hard copy or as an e-book. All other readings will be available on Canvas.

**Grading**

<b>*Class Participation</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>*On-line Discussion Groups</b>	<b>(15%)</b>
<b>Quizzes (3 total)</b>	<b>(15%)</b>
<b>Class-wide Photovoice Project</b>	<b>(15%)</b>
<b>*Discussion Facilitation</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<b>Final Paper: Choose one</b>	<b>(25%)</b>
<b>Review Paper</b>	
<b>Small-Group Project</b>	
<b>Final Paper Presentation</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
<hr/>	
	<b>=100%</b>

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

**Class Participation (10%):** Class participation is critical to learning and to understanding the material from the course. Participation grades will be comprised of your class attendance, in-class and on-line activities, and your attention and participation during lectures (by the instructor, your peers, or guests). To ensure you are able to participate throughout the quarter, readings should be read *prior* to each class and you should be prepared to draw on your on-line discussions as part of your contributions to in-class discussions.

**On-line Discussion Groups (15%):** Throughout the quarter, you will engage in on-line discussions with a group of your peers about topics we will cover in class. On most Fridays, you will have to respond to a question that I will post by Thursday afternoons, *and* respond to at least one of your

peer's questions/comments. **Your posts will be due by 11:59 PM on the Fridays on which they are assigned, but you are encouraged to post responses earlier in the day.** Your responses should demonstrate your intellectual engagement with the material and 2) some level of personal reflection on past or current experiences of relevance (\*this form of *reflexivity* is essential to the field of community psychology, especially as it relates to developing and identifying your values). I will give you feedback on your first entry, and then will expect you to make use of that feedback in future entries. **I will ask you to submit your collection of posts and responses in one document on Friday, June 3 by 11:59PM.**

**Quizzes (15%):** There will be three short quizzes throughout the quarter. Each will be comprised of up to 10 multiple-choice questions, based on the material covered in the readings and lectures. The purpose of these quizzes is to assess your learning in this course and to ensure that you are keeping up with the readings and understanding the concepts from community psychology to which you are being introduced. You will not be able to make-up a missed quiz unless you have UWT-approved documentation explaining your absence. Quizzes will not be cumulative; they will be based on the materials reviewed leading up to or between quizzes (Quiz 1 will focus on what we learned between weeks 1 and 3; Quiz 2 will focus on material from weeks 3-6, and so on).

### **Class-wide Photovoice Projects (15%)**

*Photovoice is:*

*a process by which people can identify, represent and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. It entrusts cameras to the hands of people to enable them to act as recorders, and potential catalysts for social action and change, in their own communities. It uses the immediacy of the visual image and accompanying stories to furnish evidence and promote an effective, participatory means of sharing expertise to create healthful public policy (Wang & Burris, 1997).*

To learn about this method, and the larger UWT community, the class will engage together in a Photovoice project about an issue related to UWT. We will prepare for the project throughout the quarter and between Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25, you will take photographs and develop accompanying narratives that address the issue we are focusing on. **You will upload these photographs and accompanying narratives to Canvas by 5PM on Monday, April 25.** On Wednesday, April 27, we will engage in the SHOWed method as a class. You will receive a grade for your contributions to the class-wide Photovoice project using the criteria below (and the general grading criteria listed in the syllabus):

- 1) Photographs met criteria discussed in class;
- 2) Narratives met criteria discussed in class and were well-edited, polished, and reflected critical engagement with the subject matter;
- 3) Student was fully engaged in SHOWed method and added to the analysis.

We will put together an exhibit based on our analyses and showcase this exhibit at the conclusion of the quarter!

**\*Discussion Facilitation (10%):** In groups of 2 or 3, you will lead interactive lectures covering one of the nine chapters in the *Addressing the Issues* section of the textbook (chapters 15-23). These lectures will allow students to gather in-depth information about a topic in Community Psychology, and significantly reduce the reading load during weeks 7,8, and 9. **Specifically,**

**students will only be required to closely read and write a response to three of the nine chapters assigned during those weeks.** Groups will meet during class time on Friday, April 27 to plan their lectures. **By 5PM that day**, groups will upload an outline of their presentation to Canvas. They will also email Dr. Hershberg the PPT (or updated outline) for the presentation by 8PM the night before it is assigned.

Lectures must include 1. a thorough overview of the chapter, including the important take-away messages for community psychologists; 2. a class-wide activity or discussion based on an important topic that came up in the chapter; 3) the use of multimedia, including photographs or **very brief** video/news clips of relevance; and 4. be within the thirty minutes allotted for each group.

**Final Papers (25%):** Choose one of the two options to complete for your final paper. On Friday, May 6, you will upload to Canvas a description of the option you have chosen, and your plan for your final paper. You will turn in a hard copy of your final paper, and post it to Canvas, by 5PM on Monday, June 6.

Option 1: Small-Group PhotoVoice Project

With one or two of your peers, you will design your own Photovoice project about a topic that is relevant to your community in Tacoma. You can each be the participants, or work with another group of participants. Together you will go through all the steps of the SHOWed method practiced in class. You will then put together an 8-10 page report of your project, and present this report during the last week of class. Your report will include the following components:

- (1) An Introduction where you describe and define the issue you investigated, drawing from:
  - a. the class textbook, and
  - b. at least one resource describing the history and scope of the problem/issue in Tacoma (for example, newspaper articles, informal interviews with individuals working at community organizations, professors on campus, etc.).
- (2) A Methods and Findings section summarizing your PhotoVoice process and product, including example photos and analyses of each (you will draw from the SHOWed guidelines for much of this section).
- (3) A Discussion of your findings as they relate to some of the empirical literature on this topic in community psychology (you will find 3-5 empirical articles to include in your discussion of your findings).
- (4) A conclusion section describing:
  - a. Potential implications of your findings for practice and policy in Tacoma and beyond (drawing from textbook and empirical literature you cited in your paper).
  - b. Your reflections on the data collection and analysis process and how your own **positionality** may have influenced the data you collected and analyzed and your interpretations of the findings.
- (5) An **Appendix A**, describing who contributed to what specific components of the project.
- (6) An **Appendix B**, including photographs that didn't make it into your report.

**\*Your report, including headers, in-text citations and references, should be in APA format. You should also have a title page that is in APA format.**

Option 2: Review Paper

The Review Paper will be a thorough review of research about a social problem of interest to you and relevant to the field of Community Psychology. In addition, this paper will include a critique of some of the research in psychology related to this social problem, drawing from the conceptual and methodological components of Community Psychology, as described in your textbook. If you are interested in this option, you should be exploring research about a problem of interest to you throughout the quarter. Check out chapters 14-23 to spark some ideas. You will inform the instructor by Monday, May 6 of the problem you will be examining, as part of your final project plan (see class calendar, below). Your paper should be approximately 8-12 pages, including title page and references, and include these **components**:

\*Paper should be in APA format, including title page, headers, in-text citations, and references.

- 1) Begin your paper with a succinct statement about the problem, including a clear description of the problem and its scope (i.e., describe who is affected by it, including which individuals and communities, and *how*).
  - Here you should draw from the textbook and at least one additional academic resource (including legitimate websites, such as the Center for Disease Control, the National Institute of Health, etc.). **(1-2 pages)**
- 2) Next present a review of the research that has been conducted to address this problem, drawing from the ecological perspective that is at the heart of Community Psychology. Specifically, describe the research that has been conducted to address this problem at the individual, community, and/or societal levels. If much of the research focuses on individual-level outcomes, at the very least, include a description of the community, and social factors that *may* "drive" the problem and/or that get in the way of resolving the problem. **(2-4 pages)**.
  - Here you should be referencing the bulk of the research you reviewed; **at least five** empirical articles.
- 3) Next present a critique of the research you reviewed drawing from some of the conceptual and methodological components of Community Psychology. In other words, imagine how *some* of the studies you reviewed could have been improved if some of the tenets of community psychology (e.g., values, principles, research methods.) were incorporated, either at the level of defining the problem, designing the study, and/or making use of the results. **Aim to point out limitations of two studies**, but you can also talk across your studies if you identified a common limitation. **(1-2 pages) \*\*\* NOTE- this section can also be weaved into section two.**
- 4) The last section of the paper should focus on *potential* and *innovative solutions* to the problem. Some of these solutions may be referenced in the articles you reviewed. If so, cite those articles accordingly. However, you are also encouraged "to think outside the box" and add to descriptions of potential solutions presented in the articles you reviewed based on what you have learned in class. **(2-3 pages)**.

**Final Paper Presentations (10%)**

During the last week of class, you (and your group members) will present your final paper to the class. You will describe the main components of the paper and *either* the main implications for

practices and policies in Tacoma, or potential solutions to the social problem you investigated (depending on the option you chose).

**Extra Credit:**

There are two extra credit options. Completing either of these will go toward your final class percentage. Option 1: Attend a presentation or service-learning opportunity of relevance to the class and write up a one-page synopsis of the presentation/activity, connecting it to the class in some way. Option 2: Participate in a study on SONA and write up a one-page description of the study and what it was like to participate in it.

**Grading Criteria:**

All papers will be graded based on how well you followed the guidelines for the assignments, and according to the following criteria:

- A +/- = Meets or exceeds highest expectations, very well-written and well-edited, and excellent in content
- B +/- = Good solid work, either content or writing has some problems
- C +/- = Below average work, numerous errors in editing/writing, content lacking in significant way
- D +/- = Does not meet minimum expectations, incomplete, dominated by errors in writing.
- F = Either no project is turned in or what was turned in was too incomplete to warrant receiving credit

You will receive percent and letter grades on your assignments according to the scale below.

%	Grade Pt	Letter	%	Grade Pt	Letter	%	Grade Pt	Letter
100%	4.0	A	86%	3.1	B	72%	1.7	C-
99%	4.0	A	85%	3	B	71%	1.6	C-
98%	4.0	A	84%	2.9	B	70%	1.5	C-
97%	3.9	A	83%	2.8	B-	69%	1.4	D+
96%	3.8	A-	82%	2.7	B-	68%	1.3	D+
95%	3.8	A-	81%	2.6	B-	67%	1.2	D+
94%	3.7	A-	80%	2.5	B-	66%	1.1	D
93%	3.7	A-	79%	2.4	C+	65%	1	D
92%	3.6	A-	78%	2.3	C+	64%	0.9	D
91%	3.6	A-	77%	2.2	C+	63%	0.8	D-
90%	3.5	A-	76%	2.1	C	62%	0.7	D-
89%	3.4	B+	75%	2	C	61%	0.7	D-
88%	3.3	B+	74%	1.9	C	60%	0.7	D-
87%	3.2	B+	73%	1.8	C-	<60%	0.0	E

**Course Policies**

**Academic Honesty:** Any work you turn in for this course (papers, discussion questions, etc.) should be your own work. You may not turn in work that you turned in for a previous or concurrent course. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is and for citing all the resources you use in any assignments you complete for this course. Briefly, you are committing plagiarism when you appropriate and pass off someone else’s ideas or writing as if they are your own (or previous assignments as if they are new assignments, without consulting with the professor ahead of time). Plagiarism hurts not only you but is also unfair to your classmates and to the primary author who did not receive credit for his or her work. Students are responsible for learning how and when to document and attribute the resources they use in papers or presentations. If you are not sure whether something is plagiarism (or self-plagiarism), please review the University of Washington policies on academic conduct, <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>, or ask me.

**Grade Appeal Procedure:** Except in case of error, I cannot change a grade that has been submitted to the registrar, usually on the Monday following the final exam week. If you believe your final grade is incorrect, you must submit your request for a review in writing and meet with me no later than the end of your next quarter in residence. Be prepared to show your class notes and all graded assignments. This request must include a) your name, b) course section, c) date of grade change request, d) title of assignment, e) assigned grade, and f) justification for changed grade. I will then schedule a conference to discuss the request. No grade change will be considered without a formal request. If you are not satisfied with the result of this meeting, you must submit a written appeal to the director of IAS within 10 days of our meeting. See the student catalog for full details of this procedure.

**Counseling:** The Counseling Center offers short-term, problem-focused counseling to UW Tacoma students who may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of college, work, family, and relationships. The service is provided confidentially and without additional charge to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. To schedule an appointment please call 692-4522 or stop by the Student Counseling Center (SCC), temporarily located in Cherry Parkes 206. Additional information can also be found by visiting: [http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/scc\\_about.cfm/](http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/scc_about.cfm/)

**Access and Accommodations:** The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS), located in MAT 354, functions as the focal point for coordination of services for students with disabilities. If you have a physical, emotional, or mental disability that "substantially limits one or more major life activities [including walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working]" and will require accommodation in this class please contact DSS at (253) 692-4522, email at [dssuwt@uw.edu](mailto:dssuwt@uw.edu), or visit [www.tacoma.uw.edu/dss](http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/dss) for assistance.

**Teaching and Learning Center:** The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) offers free academic support for students at all levels. For writing, reading, learning strategies and public speaking needs, please make an appointment online: <http://uwttlc.mywconline.com/index.php>

**Winter 2016 Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Weekly Topic and Assignments	Readings
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1	March 28	<b>What is Community Psychology?</b> - Review of Course and Syllabus, Introductions - <i>History and Main Concepts of Community Psychology</i>  - <i>Chapter 1 Continued</i> - <i>Issues, Values and Tools for Liberation and Well-being</i>  On-line Discussion Groups: Post 1	Chapter 1
	March 30		Chapter 2
	April 1		
2	April 4	<b>Values , Principles, and Conceptual Tools</b> - <i>Values for Liberation and Well-being</i>  - <i>Ecological System, Prevention and Promotion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Photovoice Project Discussion</b></li> <li>• <b>Sign up for Lecture Topics</b></li> </ul> On-line Discussion Groups: Post 2	Chapter 3
	April 6		Chapter 4
	April 8		
3	April 11	<b>Values, Principles and Conceptual Tools</b> - <i>Community &amp; Power</i> - <i>Commitment, Accountability and Inclusion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Options Discussion</b></li> </ul> <b>Tools for Action</b> - <i>Overview of Community Psychology Interventions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-line Discussion Groups: Post 3</li> </ul>	Chapter 5
	April 13		Chapter 6
	April 15		Chapter 7
4	April 18	<b>Tools for Action</b> - <i>Social Interventions</i> <b>Guest Lecturer: Robin Evans-Agnew RN,PhD, UWT Nursing and Healthcare Leadership</b>  - <i>Organizational and Community Interventions</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Class-wide Photovoice Project- <b>PHOTOS AND NARRATIVES</b></li> <li>• Read empirical article example (<b>post response by April 25 at midnight</b>)</li> </ul>	Chapter 8
	April 20		Chapter 9
	April 22		<b>*Empirical Example of PhotoVoice</b>

5	April 25	<b>(NO IN-CLASS MEETING)</b> <b>Tools for Action</b> <i>-Small Group and Individual Interventions</i>	Chapter 10
	April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Class-wide PhotoVoice Project- <b>UPLOAD PHOTOS AND NARRATIVES BY 5PM!</b></li> <li>• Upload empirical article response by midnight</li> </ul>	Chapter 11
	*April 29	<i>-Foundations of Community Research</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SHOWeD Photovoice Method</b></li> <li>• <b>Go see Dr. Hershberg's Research Presentation</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Groups Meet to Plan Discussion Facilitation</b></li> <li>• Groups Upload Outline of Discussion by 5PM</li> </ul>	
6	May 2	<b>Tools for Research</b> <i>-Methods: Post-positivist and Social Constructivist Paradigms</i>	Chapter 12
	May 4	<i>-Transformative Paradigm</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 2</b></li> </ul>	Chapter 13
	May 6	<b>Addressing the Issues</b> <i>-Marginalization</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upload Plan for Final Paper</li> <li>• On-line Discussion Groups: Post 4</li> </ul>	Chapter 14
7	May 9	<b>Addressing the Issues</b> <i>-Globalization, Poverty &amp; Social Justice (Group 1)</i> <i>-Colonization &amp; Racism (Group 2)</i>	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
	May 11	<i>-Immigration and Settlement (Group 3)</i> <i>Gender, power, and CP (Group 4)</i>	Chapter 17 Chapter 18
	May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-line Discussion Groups: Post 5 (<b>*response to one chapter</b>)</li> </ul>	
8	May 16	<b>Addressing the Issues</b> <i>-Confronting Heterosexism (Group 5)</i> <i>-Ableism (Group 6)</i>	Chapter 19 Chapter 20
	May 18	<i>-Promoting Liberation, Well-being and Recovery (Group 7)</i> <i>-Disadvantaged Children &amp; Families (Group 8)</i>	Chapter 21 Chapter 22
	May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-line Discussion Groups: Post 6 (<b>*response to one chapter</b>)</li> </ul>	
9	May 23	<b>Addressing the issues</b> <i>-Environment &amp; Climate Change (Group 9)</i> <b>Guest Lecturer: Dr. Lindsay McCunn- Community-based Research in Environmental Psychology</b>	Chapter 23

	May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 3</b></li> <li>• <b>Overview of the Issues!</b></li> </ul>	
	*May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-line Discussion Groups: Post 7</li> </ul>	
10	May 30	<b>NO CLASS</b> <i>-Liberation and Change and politics</i>	Chapter 24
	June 1	<b>Final Project Presentations</b>	
	*June 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Final Project Presentations</b></li> <li>• On-line Discussion Groups: Post 8</li> </ul>	
11	June 6	<b>Turn in hard copies of final papers by 5PM!</b>	

**NOTE: \* Indicates the Fridays when we may meet in-person**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**April 6:** Sign up for Lecture topics

**April 13:** Quiz 1

**April 18:** Guest Lecturer: Dr. Evans-Agnew- Participatory Research in Nursing Sciences

**April 22 & 25:** Students Participate in Photovoice Projects (upload photos and narratives by 5PM on April 25)

**\*April 27:** Groups Meet to Plan Lectures

**May 4:** Quiz 2

**May 6:** Students decide on Final Paper Plan and upload plan to Canvas

**May 23:** Dr. McCunn: Community-based Research in Environmental Psychology

**May 25:** Quiz 3

**\*May 27:** Possible Meeting for Final Paper Presentations

**\*June 3:** Last Day of Class and Final Paper Presentations

**June 6:** Hard Copies (and Canvas uploads) of Final Papers Due at 5PM

Appendix B

“Strengths and Challenges of Being a UWT Student” Posters

(Potential) Strengths of Being a UWT Student

<p><b>Abandoned Building</b></p>  <p>When you look at me, what do you see? Am I casted off as being worthless? Do I give your eyes strain and make you want to turn away? Or maybe it is that I am why the university is viewed as negligible, and as long as I am here the institution will always be lacking? Let me tell you what I see when I look at me. I see the potential of what I can be. A structure that has weathered many storms and still stands. I am the good and the bad. A competitor that has passed where you thought I would fail. Unique amongst the many. I am a University of</p>	<p><b>The “W”</b></p>  <p>This photo represents a challenge and a strength to building community at UWT. This huge “W” stationed right at the top of the central stairs through which all students traverse to get to and from classes and into the city, remains empty so often. This is also an important focal point for students and the community; letting the world know we exist. So many times during the day it seems as if the school is desolate and nobody is around. The “W” makes such a big statement to the community and to the students, yet it does not fulfill its purpose.</p>	<p><b>So Many Events!</b></p>  <p>So many events, but there are not enough people attending them. It's like a representation of the mind of a student deciding on what to do, before quitting as their thoughts get clouded and jumbled on figuring it out. Settling for their warm cozy bed at home instead.</p>
<p><b>Pathway to Success</b></p>  <p>I chose this image because every day when I get to school I walk down this pathway. Every time I do I think to myself that it is one more day closer to my goals. This keeps me motivated to move forward and keep going.</p>	<p><b>Thingamabobs at UWT</b></p>  <p>Wouldn't it be nice if we knew what this building use to be? Stopping to read text is a challenge for a lot of people. Adding text to the walls and ceilings to bring back the history of this industrial location can be done by designing text to fit with the images. Text that is well thought out with an aim to answer what, when, where, and sometimes even why, would help us feel more connected to this campus.</p>	

Disconnection From UWT

<p><b>The “W”</b></p>  <p>What has brought us all together is a common decision to attend UWT. We are told we are huskies but it doesn't feel this way. Our W Does not really give us a sense of belonging to the entity. I have felt like my degree is less than Seattle's campus because we have a signifier. We also do not get similar perks and are limited in many aspects, such as the graduation debacle that has happened recently. Punishing people with larger families by only affording 5 tickets. We spent money on a metal W to be on our campus, but we cannot afford to have a larger venue? I am a husky, I deserve to have all of the rights afforded that amazing signifier.</p>	<p><b>8:04 AM</b></p>  <p>Class starts at 8:00am and the seats remain empty. Each chair resembles a student and a reason.</p>	<p><b>You'll Like Tacoma</b></p>  <p>This photo is representative of the UWT Tacoma community and barriers, as well as the supports one receives in an urban campus environment. The “You'll Like Tacoma” slogan is one that is reflective of the city we share and similarities that bring us together as a UWT and Tacoma community. These aspects are a shared experience. The fence and grass in the photo are the barriers one may experience trying to make their education or Tacoma work for them. (Whether those barriers are parking, commute, working, or having a family to care for.)</p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>  <p>This photograph is of a mother and daughter walking at the UWT campus. It represents the challenges to being a UWT student and challenges building community at UWT. As a parent and student it can be extremely hard to make friends and feel like you're a part of the community, especially when so many of the other students are fresh out of high school. It would be really beneficial to all students who are parents if there were more opportunities to meet other families and students who understood the struggle of raising a family while in college. Everyone wants the full college experience, even students who have children.</p>	<p><b>Title</b></p>  <p>In Tacoma, the military is an important presence. In the military, as is in the University of Washington community group, the IGRT is a faction that is struggling for legitimacy. Relatively speaking, the short journey of embarking on a college education can be painful, arduous, and for the most part, improbable for the vast majority of young LGBT youth. Despite being one of the most LGBT friendly cities in Washington, newcomers to this area still have trouble assimilating and getting equality, recognition, and consequently, employment outside of college because of their sexuality. Even if they have served in the military their service may be undermined by discrimination they face for their sexual orientation. Every life matters and should be celebrated instead of marginalized on campus and in the larger communities of which UWT students are a part.</p>	<p><b>Safe</b></p>  <p>In this image, we see a women's foot in sandals walking over large shards of broken glass on a sidewalk. This image is of me walking down a sidewalk in an area informally designated as “free student parking”. The glass has been covering 4 feet of sidewalk for over a week now and no one has cleaned it up. It is impossible to avoid, shards are scattered everywhere. In order to walk to and from your car, you must walk over this dangerous health hazard. As a student of UWT, I do not feel safe when I come to school, and especially when I am leaving it. This image is both literal and symbolic of all the dangers surrounding the UWT campus that students have to purposefully navigate around or through in order to stay safe. Dangers that have yet to be addressed or even acknowledged by those in power at UWT.</p>

### Parking as a Barrier to Academic Engagement

<p><b>Too Much Money</b></p>  <p>Parking is simply too much money. If UWT is trying to provide an affordable education, cutting parking costs needs to be part of it.</p>	<p><b>90-Minute Parking</b></p>  <p>There are many frustrations when it comes to parking here. You have to pay daily with a credit or debit card (encouraging more debt). You have to time yourself at any meeting you are in because of parking and your time limits. You sometimes overpay because your class was let out early or canceled that day.</p>	<p><b>Barriers</b></p> <p>This image represents economic barriers for students, specifically in regard to parking. All of the on-campus parking is pay-for parking, so if one wants to have their car conveniently on campus they must pay anywhere between \$1-\$12 or more each day. For students who are struggling financially, that is simply another expense that they may or may not be able to afford. And while there is "free parking", one must travel several blocks away through alleyways and unsafe neighborhoods to use it. This image represents how for many students parking on campus is inaccessible, and is like being on the other side of a chain-link fence looking into a privileged world of financial security.</p> 
<p><b>Commuter Campus</b></p>  <p>The urban-type campus is not welcoming in terms of the mode in which you have to get there. This is a commuter campus that does not supply their student commuters with a safe and convenient place to park. This is a challenge as a UWT student</p>	<p><b>Calm Before the Storm</b></p>  <p>Calm before the storm. Each morning the fight begins to find and secure a spot. As each hour ticks the struggle builds and the saying the early bird gets the worm becomes relevant.</p>	<p><b>Court 17 Garage</b></p>  <p>Because the lack of adequate parking spots, many students feel discouraged to come to school on a daily basis. The bars are in this photo represents the students and faculty members feeling trapped in their parking situations. Many individuals do not feel welcomed to park in the court 17 garage due to the lack of space and cost</p>

### Lack of Community Space

<p><b>"Gather"</b></p>  <p>UWT is passionate about creating a community where diverse individuals can congregate and expand their knowledge. The word "GATHER" is a clear message from UWT that we must come together and work as a community. While this message is filled with intention, we lack the space and motivation for coming together and creating a community.</p>	<p>A challenge of being a UWT student is that there is little covered seating. There are a few really nice benches, but being in WA where it's usually rainy, we really need some covered seating areas. This would allow us to socialize, have a place to eat, to meet, and to be outdoors (and to not get rained on) after being inside for so long.</p>	<p><b>Left Out In The Rain</b></p> 
<p><b>Hidden Benches</b></p>  <p>"I never even knew there were benches there, it's just an odd location." – UWT Student</p>	<p><b>Lack Of Common/ Dining Area</b></p>  <p>The lack of a dining hall is a challenge to building the community at UWT. Students have to find various spots around the campus to eat, often alone, which limits their chances of meeting other students. We need a bigger space for students to come together to increase chances of socializing and building a community.</p>	<p><b>Nothing To Do But Wait</b></p>  <p>Due to the lack of student activities and social spaces on campus, students sit in a quiet corner while they wait for their next class to start.</p>

Loneliness and Isolation		
<p><b>Avoiding Each Other</b></p> <p>As students have spare time in between classes, little space is created to bring students together. As this picture shows the discomfort within space and communication. Students resort to their cell phones, as they'd rather be talking with someone farther away than the faces right next to them.</p> 	<p><b>Wandering Alone</b></p> 	<p><b>Lonely Journey to Success</b></p> <p>The steps to our future don't have to be traveled alone. Here at UWT, we can create a community built on helping each other reach our goals. This picture not only captures the beauty of our UW campus, but also how lonely the journey to success can be.</p> 
<p><b>Eating Alone</b></p>  <p>This picture represents the challenges we have at UWT in regards to building community. This was taken during the lunch hour, and I found it really interesting because of the students' body language, I believe a problem that we have at UWT is a lack of eating space, we don't have a cafeteria here so students are obligated to eat outside the campus, or go home.</p>	<p>Reflected in the photo is a more than common occurrence for UWT students, wandering around the school alone. One of the many challenges facing UWT students is building a sense of community and a new social circle in a school with such a diverse population. Some new students may sit next to a classmate who is old enough to be their parent, and it takes some adjusting. Many ultimately decide to go it alone, and spend their time on campus wandering with headphones in, avoiding social interaction. However, this highlights the strengths of these students, as a lack of connection may develop strong individual skills, such as self-motivation and self-care. But for students who need greater social connection and support, this campus may be challenging and even damaging to their well-being and success and they may drop out.</p>	<p><b>This distance between all of us</b></p>  <p>When you look at these people, do they seem close to one another? Technology and social media have been huge factors in why people are so disconnected, even with people sitting right beside them.</p>