

**Reading Discussion: *America, Seen Through Photographs, Darkly***  
[from **On Photography** by Susan Sontag, 1989]

[5 points]

answers must be typed for full credit

1. What were the historical goals of photography?
2. What were the contemporary goals at the time of this essay?
3. Do these goals persist or have they changed in the current climate of digital photography?
4. How are Walker Evans' surreptitious subway photos different from Diane Arbus' portraits?
5. All pictures of people are not "portraits". Why not?
6. Why did Arbus feel being a photographer gave her more freedom when interacting with people?
7. Do Arbus' photographs degrade or humiliate her subjects? Why or why not?
8. Who is Walt Whitman and what does he have to do with any of this?



Walker Evans from **Many Are Called** 1930s



Edward Steichen from **Family of Man** 1950s



Diane Arbus 1960-70s



Diane Arbus 1960-70s