**HOW TO RESPOND TO A VISUAL**

1. “Walk around” the image, identifying all of the visual elements you can think of, then thinking about what each of them might mean.
2. Then, identify a MAIN IDEA or MAIN IMPRESSION that these elements work together to represent. Choose 1-3 elements that best exemplify the idea or impression I have chosen. This becomes your “Statement.” (ex. Through the use of colour, line, and body language, the photographer conveys an impression about inequality between different ethnicities of people – an inequality so strong that it can even divide people as innocent as children).
3. Coming up with a statement is the hardest part – now all you have to do is identify what our 1-3 elements look like within the image, and how they help explain our statement (ex. The colour of the grass on the German boy’s side of the fence is much more vibrant than that present on the Jewish boy’s side, showing that when it comes to being German the grass truly is “greener on the other side.” The bright, healthy grass reflects the happy, healthy life the Germans led during WWII, while the dying brown grass and dirt reflects the terrible conditions, which often resulted in death, forced on the Jewish people because of their ethnicity). The more elements or examples you discuss, the stronger your response will be. Make sure that you explain HOW each of your examples helps explain the main idea.
4. Lastly, we need to come up with a concluding sentence that summarizes our ideas and explains why our answer is significant OR restates our statement and sums up our response (ex. The visual elements present within this image allow for the clear communication of a powerful message about division, that would not be nearly as impactful if done using words or the imbalance of the visual elements on either side of the fence provide a clear visual representation of the imbalance present within the two ethnicities facing off in the photo).