

Passionate Observer: Eudora Welty
Among Artists of the Thirties



**A Chronicle of Today:
Capturing the World of 2007**

Target group: Elementary, Middle, High School

NYS Learning Standards:

The Arts:

Standard 1: Creating, Performing, and Participating in the Arts

Standard 3: Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art

English Language Arts:

Standard 3: Language for Critical Analysis and Evaluation

Goal:

To create a series of insightful photographs documenting the everyday life of students.

To compose artist statements reflecting on their choice of subject matter.

Materials:

Camera

Human subjects

School, home, community environment

Question to Consider:

How will students learn to “see” a person or place that “defines” life in the early 21st century?

How are the economic conditions of the Depression communicated in Welty’s paintings?

How does this assignment relate to genre paintings of the past?

Activities:

Have a *Visual Thinking Strategies* discussion about a number of Welty’s photographs.

After the discussion ask:

What have we learned about Welty’s time in history through our discussion?

Who were the subjects of her photographs?

What activities are they involved in?

Conversation could be enhanced by including examples of genre paintings of the past.

Information about the Depression could aid students in their understanding.

Then turn the discussion to contemporary times and ask:

What kinds of people represent our community?

What kinds of things are people doing in 2007?

What kinds of photographs can you take that will document our contemporary era?

Students will take a series of photographs which will chronicle their life in 2007.

Students will mount those photographs.

Students will write an artist statement about each photograph, discussing the way in which the photo represents the world of 2007.