

Unit One, Predraft One (P1.1)

Write one paragraph in which you describe an image. The image is Robert Frank's "New York City," available for viewing in the Materials section of this website. A picture is worth well over a thousand words, and you will undoubtedly be able to describe in your short paragraph only certain aspects of the photograph. Though you cannot be comprehensive, do try to be accurate. The primary goal of this assignment is for you to practice *close reading* of an image, focusing on the *evidence* that you provide in anticipation of a claim you will support.

Near the end of your descriptive paragraph, draw some conclusion about the photograph that your description supports. Your conclusion should be provocative, surprising, strange, or otherwise interesting. In short, it should be something worth mentioning. Your brief paragraph will not be able adequately to support your conclusion, but should provide some evidence in favor of it. This is the secondary goal of this predraft assignment: to move toward an *original, motivated thesis* supported by your evidence.

Please e-mail to me your paragraph by Saturday, September 10, at noon. Include your paragraph **not as an attachment but in-line**, as part of the e-mail text. In the subject line, include the designation "P1.1." Also include your name in the subject line. (I know that your name is already associated with the e-mail, but for reasons of bookkeeping, it helps me to have it appear in the subject line, too.)

Finally, please include in the same e-mail (but separately) a brief introduction. Where are you from? What are you studying at MIT? What prompted you to take this class? What do you hope to gain from this class? Comments always welcome.