

While scouring the Internet for an interesting topic, we discovered a list of documentary photographers. We did some quick online research and to our surprise, found a familiar photograph—"Migrant Mother." Although we recognized this photograph, we were unaware of the story behind it. Realizing the communicative power of photographs, we agreed that Dorothea Lange fit this year's NHD theme, "Communication in History." By photographing the harsh realities of poverty and discrimination, Dorothea Lange illuminated marginalized groups in America and encouraged support for federal relief efforts while also cementing the role of photographers as documentarians responsible for communicating the experiences of others to those with the power to enact social and political change.

We began our research by reading books and detailed articles about Lange. We accessed many of her photographs through the Farm Security Administration Collection on the *Library of Congress* website and the Oakland Museum of California's Dorothea Lange Collection. These collections provided high-quality photographs for us to see and incorporate into our website. We also read *An American Exodus: A Record of Human Erosion*, a photography book published by Lange and her husband, Paul Taylor, which we accessed online via the *Internet Archive*. In between the state and national competition, we further researched Lange's work with Japanese internment camps and reorganized our final 'Impact' page to thoroughly conclude our site.

We created a website because we have previously created three together and we enjoy the variety of elements. The NHDWebCentral editor was challenging to work with, but it was helpful to be able to virtually collaborate. By incorporating text blocks, quotes, videos, and photographs, we established a balance between our words, Lange's voice, and others to provide a complete analysis of Lange's life. We used NoodleTools to organize our annotated bibliography.

As a photographer with the Farm Security Administration, Dorothea Lange held a crucial role during the Great Depression as a voice for America's rural poor. Her photographs communicated the hardships of life for migrant workers, tenant farmers, and sharecroppers to the rest of America and beyond. Lange created a shared national sympathy for the impoverished, displaying the continued need for New Deal relief agencies and leading to the creation of camps and cooperative farms for the poor. However, Lange's later involvement with the War Relocation Authority was not as effective in producing political change. Her photographs of Japanese internment camps were suppressed because they painted the American government in a harsh light, demonstrating the restriction of communication during World War II. Nonetheless, in both her Depression-era and wartime photography, Lange succeeded in connecting with her subjects and creating works that elicited emotional responses from viewers. Though she was not the only FSA photographer, she was perhaps the most influential, due to her undying compassion for her subjects and her risk-taking spirit. She defined the role of the documentary photographer as a historian responsible for recording and sharing the human experience, successfully using photography as a means to communicate and effect social change.