Crop It, Change It

SD-B123 / STRATEGISTS · AGES 10–12

Crop one photo three ways and see how each frame changes the story.

YOU NEED: One photo (printed or on a screen), two paper L-shapes or cardboard corners

ANALYZE	Choose one photo of an everyday scene. Describe what you see before cropping.
CHOOSE	Use the L-shapes to make three different frames: wide, tight and off-center.
TEST	Sketch each crop and write a one-line caption for what it seems to say.
REFLECT	How did the crop change the story? Who decides what we see?

THREE CROPS

WIDE

TIGHT

OFF-CENTER

Captions

Wide:

Tight:

Off-center:

What changed

The crop that changed the story most was

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A little help beside the learner. Read this page first; keep the answers here.

LEARNING GOAL
Practice seeing how framing shapes meaning and how images can be edited.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
You need: One photo (printed or on a screen), two paper L-shapes or cardboard corners. Use your own photo or one a grown-up chooses; do not cut originals.

HOW TO GUIDE
Use a photo that is yours or a family photo you have permission to use. Nothing should be cut. Move paper L-shapes over the picture. Notice how what is left out changes what the picture seems to say.

WHY IT MATTERS
Every image has edges, and whoever chooses them chooses the story. Seeing this builds careful media habits.

LOOK FOR THIS REASONING
Look for a before-and-after comparison and a clear statement of what the crop included or left out.

IF THEY GET STUCK
Ask: what is in the picture but not in this crop? What does a viewer think when they only see this part?

MAKE IT GENTLER
Try just two crops.

ADD A LITTLE STRETCH
Find a news or social photo and guess what might be outside the frame.

A USEFUL STOPPING POINT
Take a new photo and try three crops of it.