

Indiana Farm Security Photographs



Using Diaries

Students can select a single photograph or series of photographs and write diary entries that discuss a typical day in the life of the people in the photographs. Or students can write diary entries that describes what they think the people in the photograph are feeling or thinking, such as their hopes, fears, desires, worries, etc.

Another activity is to read diary selections from *The Great Depression: A Diary* by Benjamin Roth (edited by James Ledbetter and Daniel B. Roth, New York: Public Affairs, 2009) and write an essay on how Roth's experiences compare with current events. Roth wrote his diary in Youngstown, Ohio and it is an excellent account of urban life in the Great Depression and a man trying to understand what happened to the economy.