



Power of the Group

When looking at all the pictures the theme that stood out was social interactions; pictures of groups of people. There was an entire section that seemed to focus exclusively on schools or education. There were a series of pictures at a medical school and then also at an elementary school as well. This made me think of using the topic of education but, being in a class of all future or present teachers, I figured that other people would pick that topic. Instead, I decided on a related topic- Power of the group.

The organizations of the pictures are such that they are also grouped. They are close or even touching each other, reflecting the power of the group in the images. They are organized in a circle because I didn't want one picture to be considered the most important. The middle picture represents the goals that can be accomplished when we work together as a group. The outer ring of pictures is framed on the top and bottom with the idea of physical power. That power can be a group of kids playing tug-a-rope or a countries military prowess, either way they show different forms of physical might.

The middle section explores the power of the group in art and science. The children tending the garden show the marriage between art and science. Growing a successful crop takes lots of work from lots of people and is the discipline of both biology and the agricultural sciences. At the same time, many people take pride in the beauty displayed by either a garden or industrial crops. The pictures below the gardening children move science and art into separate spheres yet maintains the theme of the power of the group.

The picture on the left shows the scientific aspect of the power of the group. This picture of a group of doctors operating on a patient shows that the collective knowledge and ability of people can bring people back from the brink of death. The picture on the right shows little children dancing in a group. This represents the sphere of art. They are either following a leader or choreography already learned to dance about with the group. This brings joy to both the children participating in the dance and to people watching the dance. People working together amplify their independent abilities; be they scientific (as in the doctors) or artistic (as in the dancers).

Dancing also makes a person physically strong which leads us to the bottom of the picture that shows the crème de le crème of the states physical power- the Calvary. It is important to not forget the power of the state and the military but the power of the group is in all of us not just the sanctioned states military. This is why it is located on the bottom.

In a classroom, a technique such as a photo essay could be really fun for kids. The more creative and hands on a lesson is, the more likely the lesson will stick with the students. Pairing it with a written essay would also make sure that they have communicated their topic fully. The essay would also act as a way to fact check and grade the ability of the art to communicate the message.