

# **A Level Photography - Transition Project 2024**

## **'Summer Photojournal'**

You will need access to Google Drive or PPT to present your research. If not please write up your research and bring into school on your first day back.

You should use your phone to take photos and to edit with unless you have a DSLR camera and photo editing software

# A Level Photography Transition Project 2024 'Summer Photojournal'

## What?

Research the photographer **Martin Parr** and create your own summer **photojournal** inspired by his work.

## How?

Make a Google Slide Document on the Drive and produce a combination of photographs and digital edits that document your summer.

## Why?

To develop and refine your observation and photography skills by looking more closely at things around you that you see and experience every day, and to experiment with editing techniques.



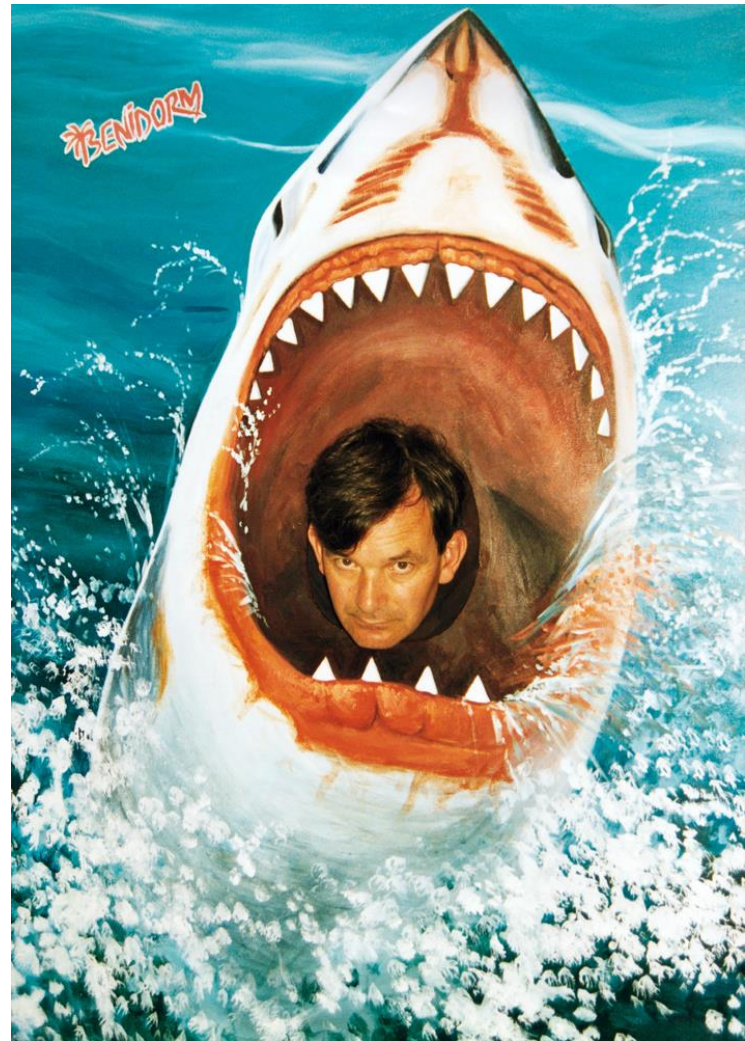
# Who is Martin Parr?

**Martin Parr** (born 23 May 1952) is a British documentary photographer, photojournalist and photobook collector. He is known for his photographic projects that take an intimate and humorous look at people in everyday life. He explores aspects of modern life, in particular documenting the social classes of England, and more broadly the wealth of the Western world. Parr focuses on the mundane to make the ordinary extraordinary.

He uses humour, playfulness, garish colour and awkward compositions to grab the attention of the viewer, his work is usually on the borderline between beautiful and ugly.

In the next few slides we will look at some of the main themes in Parr's work as well as what gives him his unique photography style.

*Please see glossary on slide 9 to help understand any photography terms that you are not familiar with.*



# THEME: LEISURE

One of the main themes in Parr's work is his study of people enjoying themselves in leisure and holiday activities. Notice in the pictures that he has not tried to make things look nice but has shown the viewer the reality of the situation, with rubbish lying around, sunburnt backs, pigeon attacks and poor holiday weather.



# THEME: CONSUMPTION

Food is a common theme in Parr's work. He sometimes photographs the food separately before it is consumed, whilst other times he will photograph the food being consumed. It is unlike most usual food photography in that he has not photographed it in a way to make it appealing, he instead simply shows it how it is.



Notice how the camera angle changes when he photographs food, is as though the viewer is looking down and about to consume it themselves.

# THEME: HOMES

Parr's photography of homes gives the viewer an intimate insight into its inhabitants. Sometimes the photograph will include the people who live there, whereas other times the photograph will be of the room or objects within the room.



## STYLE: COLOUR AND LIGHTING

Parr began his career taking black and white photography but soon moved to colour as he felt it was a better representation of real life. His colours are often bright and garish! He achieves these colours by using a flash to give high colour **saturation**, he does not edit the colour in photoshop afterwards. Due to the fact that he uses a flash even in natural lighting, his images have few shadows.



### How could you achieve bright colours?

- Pick a bright and vivid subject matter!
- Consider lighting and experiment with using the flash.
- Experiment with filters and levels when editing your pictures.

# STYLE: COMPOSITION

Parr uses unusual **compositions** and **framing** to grab the viewer's attention. His compositions are often busy, with points of interest in the **foreground, middleground** and **background** of the image. The **viewpoint** is usually eye level which helps create the feeling that the viewer is part of the intimate moment. Sometimes he cuts off the edge of the frame so that objects or people are partially out of the shot, this makes the viewer feel as though the images is part bigger **narrative**. Some photographs fill the frame, he achieves this by getting up very close to his subjects.



## How could you experiment with composition?

- Consider **foreground, middleground** and **background**. Try cutting things out of the **frame**.
- Get in close to your subject to fill the frame for a close up shot, you could also **crop** images when editing.
- When you see a good shot take lots of photos, experiment with different composition and framing options.

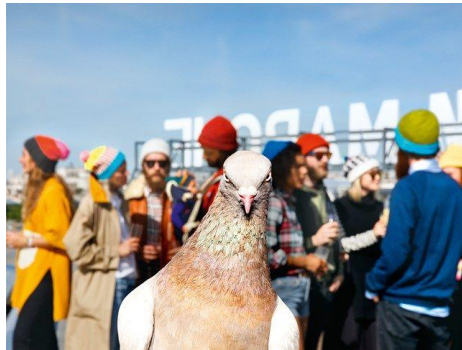


# FOCUS AND DEPTH OF FIELD

Parr experiments with extremes in **focus**; in some photographs he allows either the foreground or background to be blurry and out of focus (this is called **depth of field**) whereas other photographs he keeps everything sharp and in focus. His blurry photographs are not an accident but intentional, they help with the chaotic feel of his work and allow the viewer to focus in on specific details of the focused area.



Why not have a go at experimenting with focus in your own photography?





# Glossary



**PHOTOJOURNAL** - a series of photographs typically arranged chronologically to tell a story, can be accompanied by text to support the narrative.

**COMPOSITION** - how the visual elements in the image have been arranged or framed. The composition can be changed by moving the camera about, zooming in or out, changing a lense or changing the height of the camera, e.g crouching down.

**DEPTH OF FIELD**- the distance between the nearest and furthest objects giving a focussed image

**FOREGROUND** -the part of the image that is at the front and nearest to the viewer.

**BACKGROUND** - the part of the image that is at the back and furthest from the viewer.

**MIDDLEGROUND** - the part of the image that is in the middle between the foreground and the background.

**VIEWPOINT** - refers to the position the camera is in when viewing a scene e.g birds eye view is from above.

**CROPPING** - is the removal of unwanted areas of the image, usually the outer areas.

**FOCUS**- how clear the elements in the image have been displayed e.g blurry/not blurry.

**BLURRED** - whether the image/part of image is indistinct or hazy (often when the image is out of focus).

**SATURATION** - the intensity of colour the image holds, saturated images usually have overly bright colours.

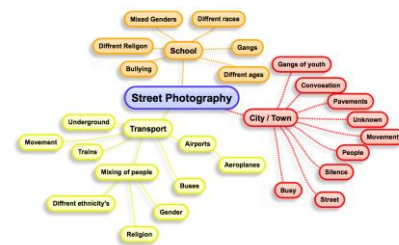
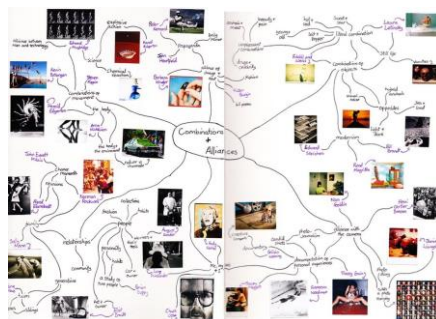
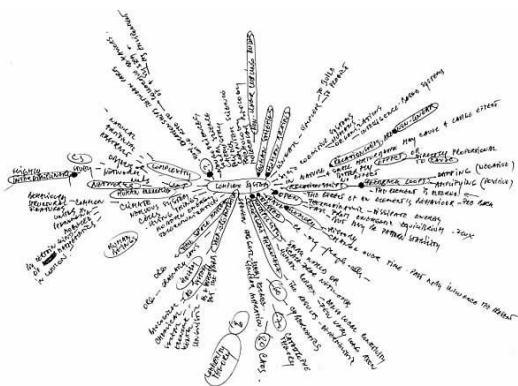
**NARRATIVE** - In photography narrative is when the images are used to tell a story,

Use the template provided to complete your work - slide 15 onwards.

## Task 1

Create a mindmap on Google Slide template (or do a hand drawn one and scan/photograph it). Write **Photojournal** in the middle of your mindmap and explore all of the possible subject matter that you may wish to photograph for your photojournal documenting your summer. Make sure you include things from the themes we looked at earlier: Leisure, consume (food and drink) and homes. So for example you could write; an open book, BBQ, ice cream at the beach, breakfast, makeup next to mirror etc on your mind map.

Examples of hand drawn and digital mindmaps, you can just use words but could include images or drawings if you'd like.



## Task 2

Create 2 Google Slides of research on Martin Parr.

Include a selection of images of his work on both slides. On slide 1 include some basic facts about Parr. One slide 2 include a paragraph with your opinions about his work (the question below can be used as prompts to help write you paragraph). Try to include subject specific words from the glossary on slide 9.

- *What do you like/dislike about Martin Parr's work?*
- *What makes Martin Parr's style of work unusual?*
- *How does Parr make use of composition/framing/colour/viewpoint/focus in his work?*
- *How will Martin Parr inspire your own work?*



### Task 3

Take a series of photographs in the style of Martin Parr that documents your summer.  
Take at least 50 photographs, you may wish to spread this out a bit across the summer break but leave yourself some time to do your edits.

Use ideas from your mindmap in task 1 to help pick your subject matter. Remember it does not matter if your summer is less exciting because of the Coronavirus, Martin Parr finds beauty in the mundane and makes the ordinary extraordinary! If you spend your summer at home then that is fine, you can still create a really interesting photojournal. (what could be more mundane than a cup of tea?)

Here are some words you can use as inspiration:

***Home, isolation, weather, self-portrait, exercise, screensaver, play, work, bed, homemade food, bathrooms, bed, inside of fridge, routine, fun.***

If you are stuck for inspiration check out the Martin Parr Foundation instagram page @MartinParrFDN as they have run a competition during lockdown and have some really interesting entries!



## Task 4

Upload your photographs and put them in a folder on your drive. If you open the folder you can take screenshots of your contact sheets and put them in your slides.

Pick your favourite 10 images for your photojournal. Experiment with editing the images, this can be done on your phone. You can edit the images how you like but make sure you are doing it in the style of Martin Parr, so you may wish to try cropping images, changing colour/sharpness levels, trying different filters etc.

Make sure you include a before and after for each image in your slides and write a sentence to say how you have edited the image.

Contact sheet



Experiment editing on your phone.



Include a before and after and a sentence to say what you've done.



## Task 5

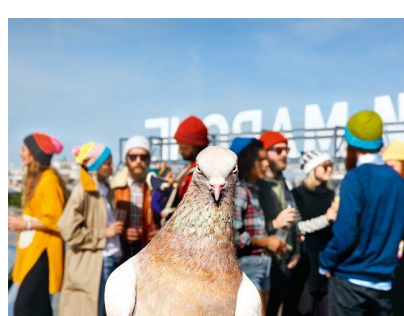
Finally put a copy of your edited images into the slides chronologically with a piece of text under each image explaining the story behind what is happening in the image or what the image represents.

For example under the photograph of a bowl of cereal you could write ***'this was pretty much what I ate for breakfast for the whole of lockdown and the summer break, I am now so sick of Frosties and not sure I can ever face eating them again'***.

Or under a photograph of a family BBQ ***'This was moments before it started torrentially raining and the BBQ was ruined'***

Your photojournal will then be complete, we can't wait to see the results!

Have a great summer and remember to always keep looking for a great photograph, you will find beauty and interest in the most unexpected of places!

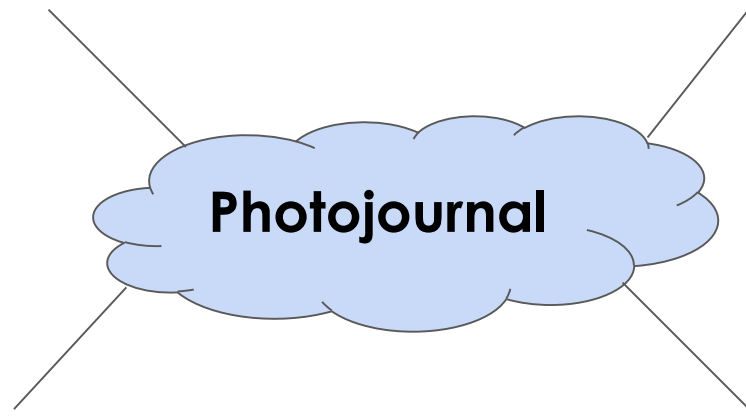


*Insert your name here*

Summer Transition Project  
**Photojournal**







# Martin Parr

Research relevant facts about Martin Parr

Insert Images by Martin Parr here

# Martin Parr

Write your opinions about Parr's work here.  
Use questions on slide 11 to help.

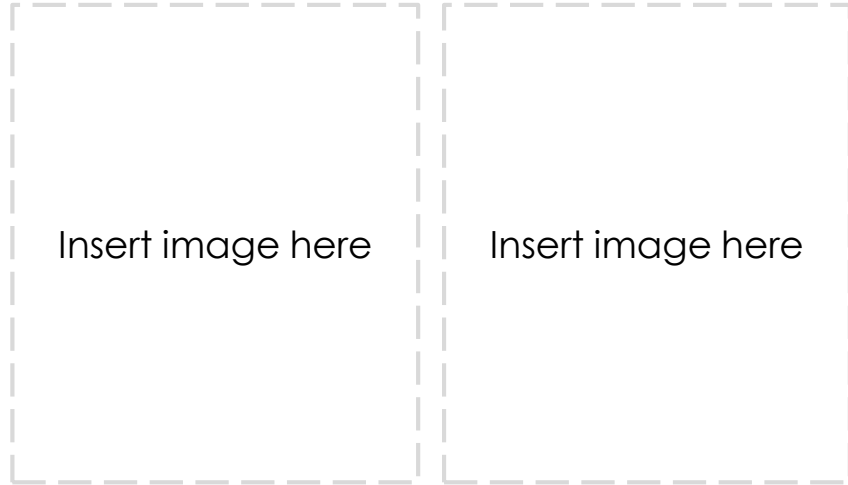
Insert Images by Martin Parr here

# Contact Sheet

Insert contact sheet here

# Digital Edits

Image 1

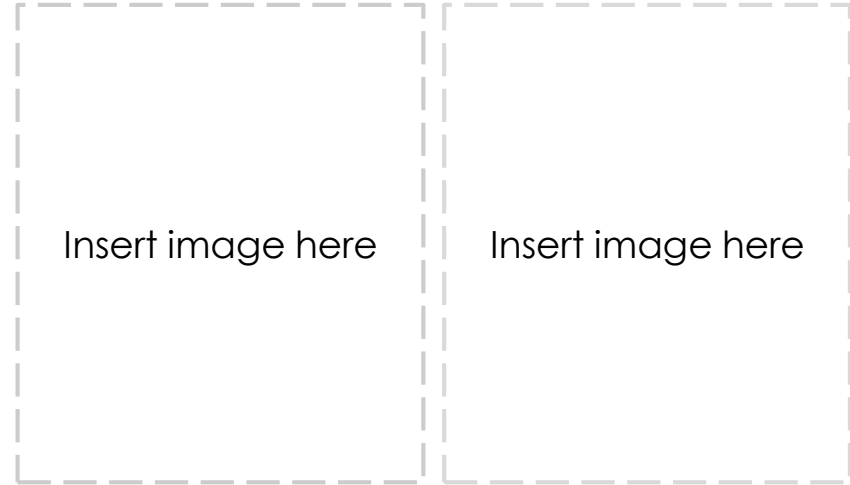


Before

After



Image 2



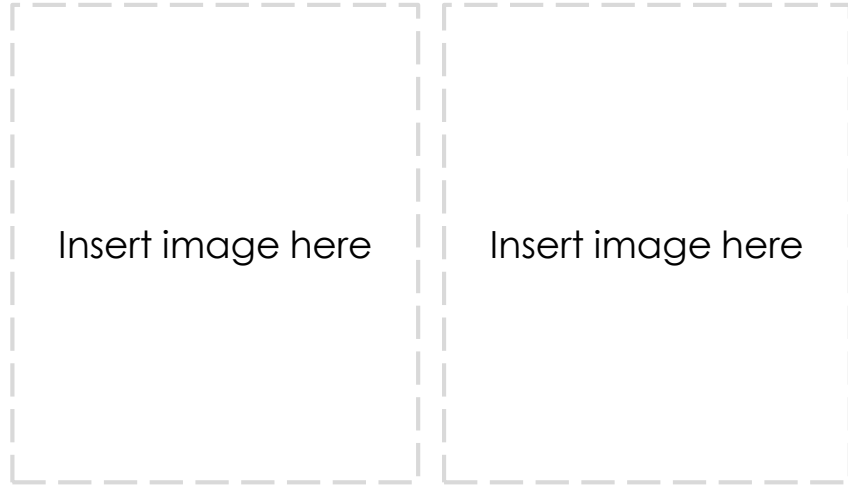
Before

After



# Digital Edits

Image 3



Insert image here

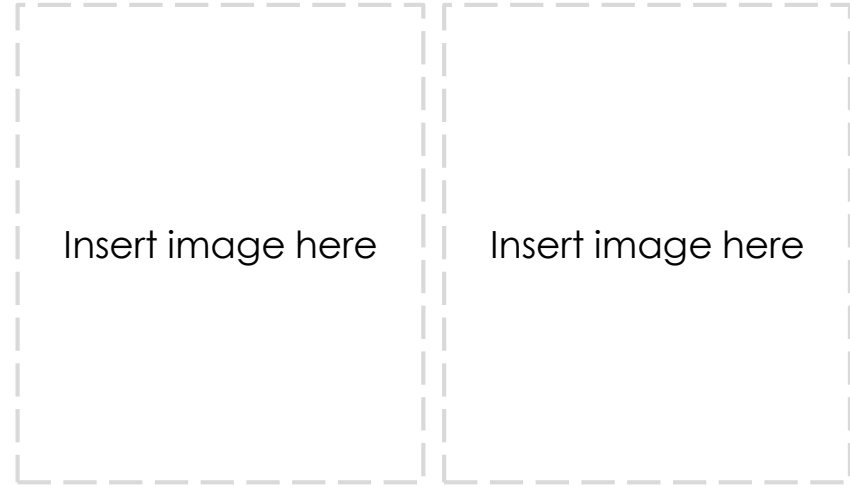
Insert image here

Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

Image 4



Insert image here

Insert image here

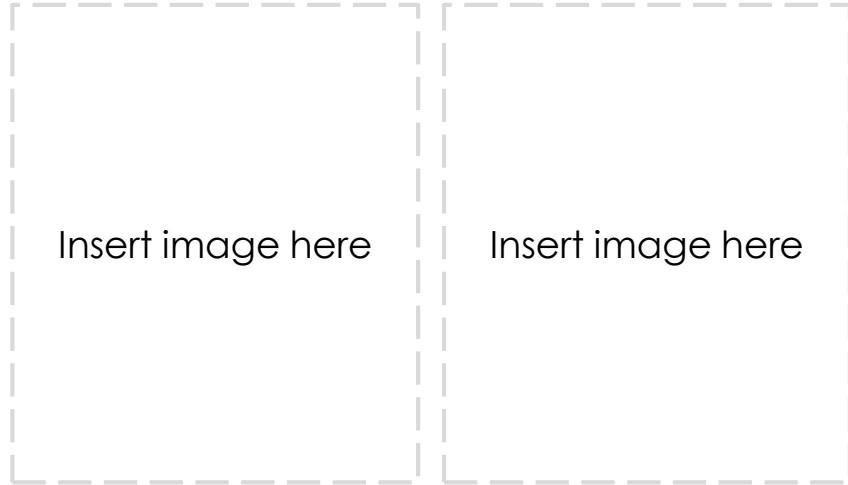
Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

# Digital Edits

Image 5



Insert image here

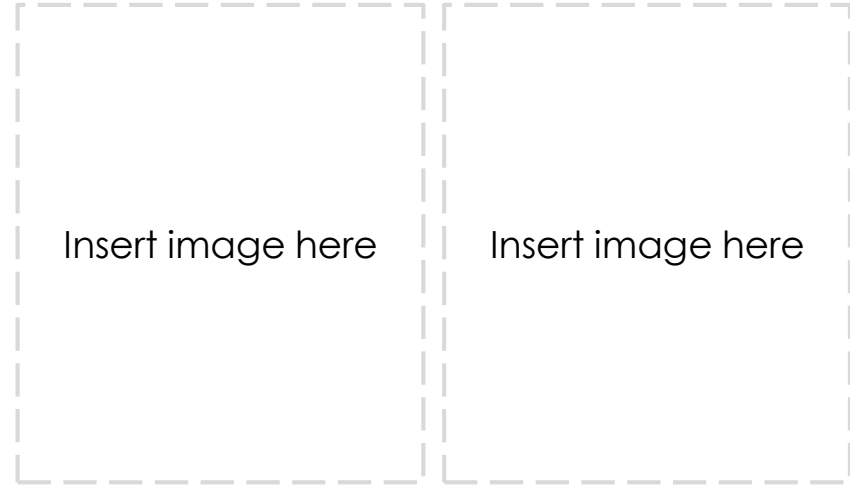
Insert image here

Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

Image 6



Insert image here

Insert image here

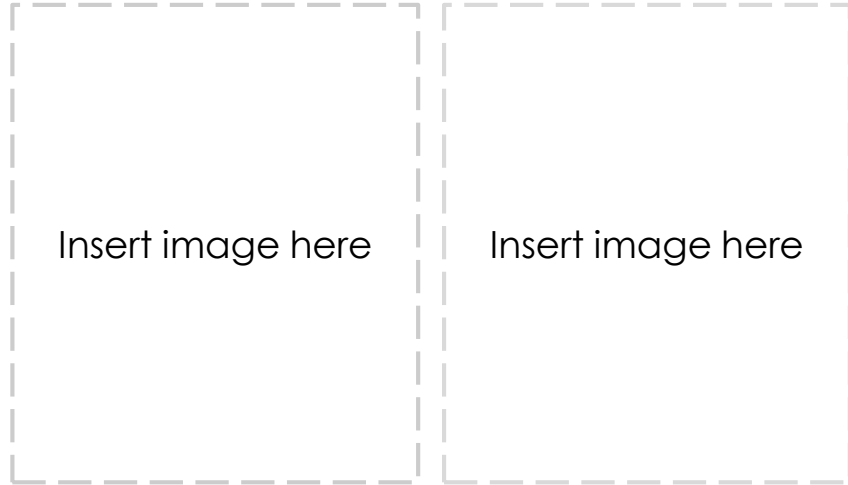
Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

# Digital Edits

Image 7



Insert image here

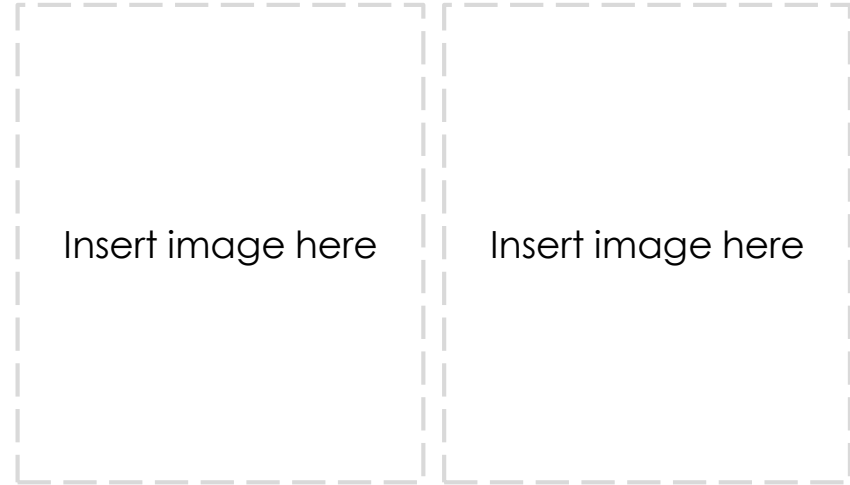
Insert image here

Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

Image 8



Insert image here

Insert image here

Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.



# Digital Edits

Image 9

Insert image here

Insert image here

Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

Image 10

Insert image here

Insert image here

Before

After

Explain how you edited the image here.

# My Summer Photojournal

Image 1

Image 2

Insert image here

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

# My Summer Photojournal

Image 3

Image 4

Insert image here

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

# My Summer Photojournal

Image 5

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

Image 6

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

# My Summer Photojournal

Image 7

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

Image 8

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

# My Summer Photojournal

Image 9

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*

Image 10

Insert image here

*Explain what is happening in the image here.*