**Enrique’s Journey – OPTIC Photo Analysis**

Learning Targets - Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately though the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Paying close attention to details is a critical component of a quality analysis. As you analyze visual texts, which can include photographs, paintings, advertisements, charts, and graphs, the OPTIC method can help you construct meaning. OPTIC stands for overview, parts, title, interrelationships, and conclusion. As you analyze a visual text, construct a response to each OPTIC element, and use those responses to develop your conclusion.

**Assignment Directions**

1. Preview all of Don Bartletti’s photographs that are featured in *Enrique’s Journey*. They can also be accessed electronically at <http://www.enriquesjourney.com/latimesphotos.html>.
2. Choose one photograph (excluding the image that is featured on the cover of the text) from the collection that appeals to you.
3. Examine the photograph at length, carefully observing to the image’s details.
4. Respond to each of the elements below based on your close evaluation of the image.

**O (overview)** – Write a brief overview of the image you selected. In a single sentence, explain what this photograph is about.

**P (parts)** – Highlight each part in the photograph, noting all of the details that may be important. These details can include color, texture, scenery, groups, shadings, patterns, etc.

**T (title)** – Use the title to clarify subject of the image. Consider both the literal and the metaphoric meanings. What does the title suggest or imply?

**I (interrelationships)** – Specify the interrelationships in the image. In other words, evaluate how the parts related, both to one another and to the photograph as a whole. Consider how the parts work together to create a mood or convey and idea or argument.

**C (conclusion)** – Using the elements you examined above, develop a conclusion that captures the image as a whole. Consider what the photograph might be trying to convey or capture, and what ideas, arguments, or implications this argument presents.

*Sample Conclusion: This photograph represents not only Enrique’s journey, but the journey of all the migrants – men, women, and children. The lush greens on the side of the train suggest hope that a better life lies ahead in the United States. But the future is uncertain and foggy, just like the horizon in the photograph. The train curves ahead into an unknown and unfamiliar landscape, which shows both the literal and the metaphoric unknowns that lie ahead. This boy is alone, a solitary figure, which emphasizes the loneliness the migrants feel on this trek, and he is only loosely clothed, suggesting that he may not fully understand the dangers of the journey. The train offers movement forward and a hope for the future, but that hope, as both this photograph and Nazario suggest, comes at a price.*