In this project, each of you will be working on a script of an audio description of an image. You may choose any image from a vast selection offered in the following websites:

**ISU’s Child Art Collection (The project Kathleen is working on)**

http://tempest.lib.ilstu.edu/index_icca.php

**Getty Images**

http://www.gettyimages.com

**Getty Sports Images**

http://www.gettyimages.com/EditorialImages/Sport

**ISU History**

http://tempest.lib.ilstu.edu/index_isuhistory.php

(for images it is easiest to search isu history using the word ‘photograph’ or ‘image’)

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Project Three: Talking Sight

![Image of two characters conversing]
Audio descriptions are verbal descriptions of a visual image, intended to make these images accessible to those with various degrees of vision impairment or blindness. I will discuss with you what is expected within this forum, and ensure that you have a clear understanding of what should be included. Audio descriptions are recorded so they can be listened to by the visually impaired. In this class, I will not be asking you to record your description, but rather to write the script that would be recorded to make an audio file that would accompany whatever image you have chosen to focus on.

You will be provided with a list of specific directions and two sample audio descriptions to help you become familiar with what is expected in the audio description forum as well as to guide you in writing your own.

Your task:

Write a script for an Audio Description for your chosen image. Remember to create a forum expectations sheet before you begin this assignment so that you understand and have thought about what you should include in this project. Be
sure you include a COLOR print out of the image you are writing about when you submit your description for feedback and grading.

All of you will use the same rhetorical situation for this project. It will be:

Audience: People with impaired vision

Forum: script for audio description

Purpose: to provide a person with vision impairment a verbal description of a specific image

***KEEP READING BELOW FOR 2 SAMPLES/EXAMPLES OF WHAT AN AUDIO DESCRIPTION SHOULD ACCOMPLISH/SOUND LIKE***
Guidelines/Examples for Audio Description:

Transcript format for audio descriptions

Title of piece (left justified)

Thumbnail of image being described (centered)

Description formatting:

Font type: Times New Roman, Font size: 14 pt, Line spacing: double)

Artwork titles, Italicized.

Artist comments in “quotes.”

The structure:
1. Introduction (Title, country, year, age and gender, artist comments when available, traveling exhibit information if available).
2. Overview description of image
3. Details of image.
4. Publication note

Example 1:
USSR-077

Introduction: This artwork, titled Winter, was created by a seven year old girl from Moscow, Russia.
Overview: A grinning snowman with a turquoise colored bucket-hat looks out from the center of the snow covered scene. To the right of the snowman, a girl wearing a yellow fur-lined parka adds another handful of snow to his body. To the snowman’s left a young girl dressed in a red parka rolls a large snowball.

Details: Behind the snowman, children engage in various winter time activities—birds gather as a girl tossed them food in the trees, another girl walks her dog and waves to a friend ice skating on a frozen pond. A fourth small figure sits on the ice, perhaps having just fallen. In the distance, two yellow apartment buildings with multiple windows and red doors, occupy the upper right corner of the image. Shades of light blue, purple, white, and pink dot the image--creating a convincing depiction of a pleasant snow blanketed winter scape.

Publication note: This image is published by Milner Library at Illinois State University as part of the International Collection of Child Art.
Introduction: This artwork, a painting titled *A Beautiful Afternoon with Birds Returning to Nests* was created by a 12-year-old boy from Vietnam in 1972.

Overview: The centerpiece of this painting—composed primarily with blue hues—is two birds flying across a lightly speckled sapphire blue sky.

Details: A larger bird is painted in the upper left side of the artwork closely followed by a smaller and similarly painted bird. The beaks have only been suggested by a jagged line and the visible eye of each bird is a simple white dot. The avian bodies are sleek and graceful with plumage that subtly moves from light to deep turquoise. The birds blend closely with their inky blue-black shadows emphasizing their forked tail feathers, reminiscent of long fluttering coat-tails.

Publication note: This image is published by Milner Library at Illinois State University as part of the International Collection of Child Art.
Summary description notes*

Audio descriptions need to be simple, direct, streamlined as possible. Reviewing for accuracy is good, but also for removing words that are not needed.

Some thoughts:
- Close your eyes and imagine listening to the description.
- Read it out loud to yourself. That will help smooth out bumps in sentences.
- Replace words you stumble over. You want it to read smoothly. You don't want the listener to stop at a word.
- Describe things in order.
- Keep in mind whether you're describing from the vantage point of the viewer or the person in the picture.
- Be clear and concise. Remember that the listener needs to comprehend what you're saying right away.
- Not everything needs to be described.

*Notes credit: Channy Lyons, AD consulting expert