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JLMC 310  
Photo Essay

The photograph that has been selected is one that was taken on central campus on Thursday, April 10. The forecast for that day was rain and people on campus experienced this weather while walking to class, eating lunch at the VEISHEA tent or participating in First Amendment Day activities.

The location that this photograph took place was just outside of the First Amendment Day tent, where there was a very large puddle. My goal for this photo was to capture the element of the weather and people on the Iowa State University campus who were experiencing it. I did this by focusing on the puddle and the reflections of people as they were walking past. The photo shows people in their raingear and others without as much protection from the weather. I chose to show only the people's feet because I believe that the real image being shown is the puddle where the viewer can see the drops of rain distorting the picture of people walking past. However, if the people's feet were not included in the frame, the photo would only be of a distorted image without a location. Also, without the drops of rain hitting the pool of water, the image would be lacking a reason why the people were dressed in raingear, carrying umbrellas and would lack a reaction that viewer may have had. As a result, the composition of this photograph possesses several visual elements and principles of design, including texture, line, balance, directional forces and economy.

Texture is one of the main principles of design portrayed in this photo because the focus of the image is the rain hitting the water. With the rough edges of grass showing above the height of the water, the drops of rain create a smooth, glossy texture. The water also distorts the

reflection of students walking past, which is another texture that consists of choppiness, therefore disillusioning the smoothness of the water.

A line is a visual element that is shown in this photograph. This line is created by the edge of the sidewalk, separating the photograph into two images, which, when combined, create visually interesting photograph. One image is of people walking and the other is of the reflection of the people walking on the sidewalk. This line forces the separation of the two images and then the reconstruction of the two images in relation to one another.

Another visual element that is included in this photograph is the line of the legs in the upper portion of the photograph. The vertical line of the legs forces the viewer to look down, creating a directional force. The directional force of the legs causes a viewer to piece together the legs to the body that is reflected in the water.

Balance is a principle of design that is also portrayed in this photograph. It is seen in the spacing of the people that are reflected. Also, the framing of this picture creates a balanced form of symmetry because it is vertically split into thirds. By framing the legs at the upper one-third of the photo, it allowed the composition of the other two-thirds of the photo to be in the reflection. This asymmetrical balance offsets the fact that only legs are shown at the top of the photo.

By allowing the viewer to have an interactive experience with this photograph, another principle of design was included in the composition of the image. The photograph has many forms of the principle economy, as it requires the viewer to think about how the image was composed and how it relates to them.

The composition of this image includes several visual elements and principles of design that are important to the meaning of the photograph. With these visual aspects, a viewer can

understand the atmosphere and surroundings that a person on the Iowa State University experiences while walking in the rain.