

## DCAH Build A House Instructions

Every image, whether it is a photograph, cartoon, portrait, or other type of image, tells a story and has a particular meaning. Image analysis is an activity that we will do many times throughout the course of this class. Image analysis is an important skill for both historical thinking and general critical thinking. The elements to examining an image can be broken down into 3 steps, much like building a house.

### **Step 1: Foundation**

What do you see in the image? What activity/action is taking place?

*Look for every detail, no matter how small you think that detail is, because the correct interpretation can come down to noticing details.*

### **Step 2: Framework**

What is the message? Who is the audience?

*Every image has a message/story, as well as a particular audience. Who is the audience that the person that created the image (photographer, artist, etc.) trying to reach with the image? What message are they trying to send?*

### **Step 3: Covering**

How is this relevant to the era being covered? How is this relevant to the modern outlook?

*Historical images have a subtext of relevance both in the era from which they come, as well as the modern era. Things that might have been viewed as commonplace when the image was created might be seen as extraordinary today, and vice versa. Images also can take on a different meaning when more information is known about a particular subject.*

