What is similar and what is different about paintings and photographs? Write an essay for your teacher, in which you compare and contrast paintings and photographs. Be sure to write about your ideas in detail.

Photographs help us understand the world. They make a huge amount of information available. Paintings have also influenced the way we understand things.

It is important to learn to interpret photographs. They might look realistic, but they can be doctored to show things that are not true. This is done in many ways. People can be “erased” from photographs. In a photo, a person’s looks can be improved too. Gray hair can be touched up to look jet black. The person can be made to look slimmer. These are some of the tricks that make photographs hard to interpret.

Also, remember that that photographer cannot capture everything in one photograph. Photographs sometimes leave out important things. For example, you may see a shot of angry people in a crowd. That shot may include only a small number of the total people in the crowd. That photo might make it seem that the whole crowd was angry. This might not be true.

Photographs are all over the place. That’s why we have to learn to understand them. I do not mean that photographs are bad. I really love them. We should just be smart in how we look at photos. This is also true for paintings.