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Adobe Photoshop: Clouds of Controversy

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Adobe Photoshop: Clouds of Controversy

Purpose:

Through the use of Adobe Photoshop's sky replacement tool, the purpose of this assignment is to improve students' understanding of generative AI photo manipulation and develop their information literacy and critical thinking skills.

Why should I learn about this?

Students should learn about photo manipulation and digital information literacy so we can critically evaluate the credibility and authenticity of digital images. This critical examination is essential in today's world, where graphics and photos can be easily altered. Mastering these skills helps us navigate and interpret media responsibly, make informed decision-making, and will help us consume media ethically.

Skills:

1. Utilize Adobe Photoshop's sky replacement tool to effectively alter the sky in a photograph, demonstrating proficiency in generative AI photo manipulation techniques.
2. Apply information literacy skills to critically assess whether a photograph has been manipulated by identifying visual and contextual cues.
3. Analyze and critically assess the ethical implications of using photo manipulation tools like sky replacement, and evaluate how these ethical considerations influence public perception and trust in visual media.

Tasks:

1. Ensure the prerequisites have been met.
2. Watch the mini lecture for this assignment in UND's Scholarly Commons (4:57)
3. Following the steps in the mini lecture, within Adobe Photoshop, utilizing the sky replacement tool, change the sky in a photo of your choosing.
4. Capture a screenshot of the workspace with your layers present.
5. Save the edited photo as a JPEG file.
6. Complete the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions for Journaling:

Please answer each set of questions utilizing 3-4 sentences. Questions may be answered in a conversational tone.

1. In what ways does altering the sky in a photograph affect the overall composition and emotional impact of the image? How can these changes influence the viewer's interpretation of the photo?
2. What ethical considerations should be taken into account when using photo manipulation tools like sky replacement? How might these considerations impact public perception and trust in visual media?
3. How can we critically assess whether a photograph has been manipulated? What visual or contextual cues should we look for to identify changes made by tools like sky replacement? How can information literacy skills help in evaluating the credibility of images that have undergone photo manipulation?

Criteria for Success

Prerequisites:

In addition to having access to Adobe Photoshop 2024 or newer, students must:
1. Understand how to import a photo into Adobe Photoshop.
2. Create a screenshot of their workspace.
3. Execute the process of saving a photo as a JPEG file.

Submission:

You will submit three items for this assignment in Blackboard to the corresponding assignment.
1. A screenshot of the workspace with layers present.
2. A final JPEG of the edited photo.
3. Answers to the discussion questions.

Grading:

This assignment is worth 15 points.
1. 5 points = A screenshot of the workspace with layers present.
2. 5 points = A final JPEG of the edited photo.
3. 5 points = Answers to all three of the discussion questions.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Will I be graded on what sky option I select?
Answer: You will not. I want you to have fun experimenting with this tool and see the power it has. I will not be critiquing your selections.

Question: What do you mean when you say that the discussion questions can be answered in "conversational tone"?
Answer: I want to hear your own thoughts when you answer these questions. Sometimes, allowing students to write in a "conversational tone" allows them more freedom to openly share.

If there is a question that you are unsure of, you can share that in your writing just as you would share with a partner if discussing in the classroom.

Question: I found this assignment through UND's Scholarly Commons. The Adobe Photoshop displayed in your video tutorial looks different from the Adobe Photoshop on my computer. This is frustrating. Why is this happening?

Answer: The video tutorial was created in August 2024 using Adobe Photoshop 2024. Since software updates frequently, there may be differences between the version shown in the tutorial and the version you are using. Technology evolves rapidly, and interfaces can change with new updates, so some variations are expected.