Patricia Whiting Internship: Supplemental Activity

Please choose **ONE** of the prompts below and include your answer in a separate document (Word, Google doc, or pdf).

These prompts provide an example of reparative description work and the nature of the internship. To note, there are no right or wrong answers. Rather, the intention is to critically examine language that may be incorrect, biased, exclusionary, and/or racist.

1. Compare the two photographs and their associated metadata. What differences do you notice between the Titles and Subjects used? How does this influence your interpretation of the images?

Title	Harvest workers breaking for lunch
Description	Sepia-toned image of a group of men sitting in a field. A woman holding a dish of food stands in the open door of the car, and several of the men gathered about the car appear to be eating and three or four hold coffee cups in their hands. The field behind them is full of rows of harvested grain. In the early 1900s machinery was expensive, and most farmers did not own their own harvesting machinery. Instead paid crews such as this one for the few days it would take to harvest their crops. The crew would then move on to the next farm in the area ready for harvest, or on to another area entirely. Museum records do not identify either the people in the picture or their location, but the photo was part of the Herbert McMullen bequest. McMullen was a local photographer who, in addition to taking his own photographs, collected images that depicted daily life in the area.
Date Created	circa 1910s-1920s
Subject	Picnics Agricultural laborers Economic History

Title	Unidentified potato picker
Description	Black and white (overexposed) image of a man harvesting potatoes in a field. He stands with a burlap bag between his legs, the mouth of the sack attached at either end to a bar suspended from his belt loops, keeping it open. He carries empty bags attached to his belt at the back. While the field is bare and any visible plants are dried and apparently dead, unharvested potatoes can be seen laying on the ground in front of the worker. Behind him, another worker is bent over his own sack, and several filled sacks sit in the field behind them. Museum records identify the people in the image as 'potato pickers,' and they are most likely migrant workers. Migrant farm labor has been an important part of agriculture in Washington County since the early 1900s, though the cultural groups which provide the majority of the laborers have changed over time.
Date Created	circa 1959
Subject	Agricultural laborers Agriculture Migrant labor Migrant agricultural laborers Potatoes--Harvesting Hispanic Americans Economic History Cultural Studies Latino Interest Human Migration

2. Create a new title for the “Unidentified potato picker” photograph below using these guidelines for constructing titles.

3. Use the Library of Congress database to look up the subject terms that had been applied to the “Unidentified potato picker” photograph. Which terms, if any, would you remove? Are there additional subjects you would add? Why?

Subject	Agricultural laborers
	Agriculture
	Migrant labor
	Migrant agricultural laborers
	Potatoes--Harvesting
	Hispanic Americans
	Economic History
	Cultural Studies
	Latino Interest
	Human Migration