take a picture, it’ll last longer!

[[assignment one, soan 235]]

A picture is worth a thousand words, they tell us. Maybe even a little bit more than a thousand, when all is said and done. Let’s see.

The goal for this assignment is to read a photograph/image to pull out the story/stories it is telling about the city/the urban, and then consider how images enhance or complicate our understanding of the narratives they complement. How to do that? Follow these simple steps:

1. Select a story about a/the city (this will most likely be a news story, but it could be another kind, if you prefer). This story should include at least one photo. The simplest version is to go 1 story/1 photo, but other variations (1 story/multiple photos, 2 stories/2 photos, 101 stories/3754 photos, etc.) are possible.
2. Identify the salient and/or interesting elements in the photo and annotate them. Choose at least 5 elements. What does it mean to annotate a photo? We’ll discuss options in class.
3. Connect those elements with the accompanying text. To what extent does the photo support the claims in the text? Are there any ways in which they don’t tell the same story?
4. Connect those elements with class readings. To what extent does the photo support the claims in the readings? Are there any ways in which they don’t tell the same story?
5. Bring all these together into a coherent (!) and compelling (!) argument, about 4-5 pages in length (not including image/annotation).
6. Turn in the paper, the annotated photo, and citation/link to the original story. Due March 12.