Portraits
by Courtney Burton

Inspiration for authors, painter, and photographers can come from anywhere. Popular artists can use anything as inspiration for their work. Authors sometimes uses phases, life events, even their dreams for ideas for a story. Photographers use their environment or people as their topics. Everyone has a reason for a painting, story or picture.

I recently had the chance to create a photo essay of any topic I choose. It took me longer than I expected to decide on a topic, but my topic came to me after class. I was listening to my classmates' topics for their essays: their families, their dogs or pets, their lives. That's when my topic came into my mind. I wanted to take pictures of something that people would like to see, so I took pictures of them.

There was no certain time that I decided to take a portrait. It was always a split-second decision. I took the picture; I didn't care who it was, it was only about what they were doing. From sleeping or studying to just having fun at lunch, I took the picture. I tried not to let my subjects be aware of me, but it was a challenge. The pictures I did take were the ones that inspired me to keep taking more.

Every day was anther chance for a great picture to be taken. I would go though the day seeing my classmates and their personalities. I wanted to show that uniqueness though these pictures. I wanted to show them though the pictures.

In my pictures there are people whom I respect and people whom I admire. These are the people I see every day so I wanted to show them, not a girl holding a pencil. I wanted to show how Mandy Merkel writes an essay. I wanted to show how Jude Perez learns. I wanted to show how they do things.

My topic might not seem very imaginative, but it's a topic that means something. There are a broad variety of images I could have taken, but though all of my pictures, there is a constant similarity : us. I wanted people to see us, not just Chalmette High students. We are people, with different personalities. That was my main goal, to capture them in the picture, not just a person.