History of Photography

*Light and Likeness – 19th & 20th Century Portrait Photography*

Points for Consideration
1) What makes a good photographic portrait? Is that answer different now than it was in 1845?
2) What limitations were early portraitists working under?
3) How was light used in early photographic portraiture? Was its quality ever a consideration, or just its quantity?
4) What were the advantages of the daguerreotype? What were its disadvantages?
5) What were the advantages and disadvantages of the calotype or paper negative/paper positive process?
6) Why did a French invention (the daguerreotype) become most popular here in the United States?
7) What was it about portraiture (or, perhaps about *photography*) made it an instant craze?
8) Why didn’t the calotype take hold as quickly or completely anywhere except England?

Terms and Names

Daguerre                      Albert Sands Southworth
Daguerreotype (-tipist, -typy) Josiah Hawes
William Henry Fox-Talbot      David Octavius Hill
Samuel F.B. Morse              Robert Adamson
Transcendentalists (ism)       Ralph Waldo Emerson
Limning—“depicting by painting or drawing” Henry David Thoreau
Paul Strand                   Imogen Cunningham
Joseph Karsh                  Arnold Newman
Richard Avedon                Irving Penn
Annie Leibovitz               Cindy Sherman
John Coplans                  Loretta Lux