

It seems like since the start of mankind people have automatically judged the worth of others by their outward appearance. People often have a pre-set idea of how someone's looks will effect their character, which is more often then not inaccurate. My idea for this assessment was to try and show someone who, despite how they looked, rebelled against the 'way they were seen to be'.

I see Jacob as a rebel in many ways, not just because of his appearance but because of how he resists 'acting the way he looks' and even how willing he is to push himself through pain to perfect a trick. At first glance he looks like just a defiant skater, which is true to some extent. But talking to him will prove all of your presumptions wrong, he's not reckless or a troublemaker, just a laid-back genuine guy who enjoys skating.

My main intent for this photo-essay was to try and not just depict the 'rebellious' image Jacob has but to show him in full, meditating and playing acoustic guitar, a rebellion in itself. I tried to build an image of this 'rebel' for the audience by first showcasing his skating and tattoos, stereotypical traits of a rebel, and then challenge and break the cast to show other ways that rebellion and resistance can work.

I tried doing in depth research before taking my photos as I've never done a photo-essay before so I was a bit stuck at the start. For the portraiture I tried to intimidate the style of Steve McCurry, an acclaimed photographer famous for his depth of field, composition and colour, which was an area in my photography I've wanted to improve on for a while.

Knowing Jacob is hugely talented and into skating, I did some research into skate photographers before taking my photos. Photographers such as Spike Jonze, Craig Stecyk and Atiba Jefferson gave me a better idea of how to frame my photos, especially the action shots.

I also looked at other photo essays to try to work out how to properly structure my photos. One that stuck out to me in particular was Raised by Wolves by Jim Goldberg, his candid, raw style of photography was a big change to most of the other essays I'd seen through my research and something that I tried to imitate through my own essay.

Skating isn't something that makes Jacob rebellious, it's something that gives him a break away from what's happening in his life, just like meditation, playing guitar and singing do.



At first sight Jacob looks like a pretty stereotypical skater, with tattoos up his arms, painted nails and rings



There's more to Jacob's rebellion than just his look or his skating



Jacob doing an ollie down stairs



A new skateboard already roughed up by tricks



Checking an injury on his toe after landing an ollie



Not just a rebel through looks – breaking away from stereotypes, Jacob meditates regularly to get time to himself



He also plays acoustic guitar, despite what some would assume





## References

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