Photo Narrative:
This picture from Gobabeb is not necessarily my best, but it is one of my favorites. The contrast from the community of the research center on the right, the moon on the left and nothing in-between reflects how life out in the Namib Desert feels – isolated. The moon being so far away is similar to being out in the middle-of-nowhere, Africa and the water tower similar to civilization of any sort. It is an overly dramatic comparison considering my time at Gobabeb is a mere four days, but it feels like another world out here that seems like it would be quite lonely if here for a long period of time.

Peer’s Reaction:
This is a photograph of a sunset, meaning the end of another day. Nightfall generally brings about a somber feeling for most. This picture, for me, does not bring about that feeling. I feel more of an accomplished feeling with this photograph. A feeling you might get if you worked all day and finished a project that actually meant something to you. I think it is because of the color choices. The blue is in abundance, but it is not an overwhelming amount of dark, depressing blue. The yellow on the water tower and landscape add a brightness to keep the picture from becoming gloomy. It is a picturesque scene that you might see if you were sitting on a porch in a rocking chair, reflecting on the day’s previous tasks.
Photo Narrative:

It’s “The Circle of Life” – every kid who grew up in the 90s can relate to the *Lion King* single, but strangely enough this song has crossed my mind more than the average 20 year old the past week. Being in Etosha National Park and seeing thousands of animals gave me first hand knowledge of how life in the wild is for some animals. I got to somewhat see how the real circle of life works outside of a Disney movie. Though this picture is not as aggressive as many think of the circle of life is, it shows that the elephant has precedence over a group of birds that is very precious here in Namibia – water. This picture ruins my *Lion King*-esque view of animals in Africa, but is a powerful image. This picture tells a chapter in a story of wild life in Africa.

Peers’ Reactions:

I love this picture! It’s a great shot of the elephant strait on and shows how big he is compared to the birds. This is obviously a younger elephant so it almost shows his playful side with his ears being spread at the way out and his trunk swaying. It makes me happy and get warm-fuzzies on the inside looking at the picture.

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In this image I can feel and sense of playfulness. Because the picture was captured from a higher vantage point, it makes the elephant appear to be younger. The way the elephant is looking down at the birds, it creates a perception that it is interested in the subjects. It almost seems to be approaching them to play. I see this image as symbolizing a personal/emotional perspective.
Photo Narrative:

I live in a three bedroom, two bathroom home. It has a garage. It has heat when it is cold and air conditioning when it is hot. It also has electricity and a stove. Here across the red line in northern Namibia, homes aren’t like my house. They are usually one room, sometimes brick, sometimes just metal. They are not heated or air-conditioned. They do not have toilets. The image I chose brings on a strong realization that the rest of world might not live as comfortably as I do in my home. It makes me sad to think that so many people live in such a shanty community, where alcoholism is so prevalent and trash lives on the side of the road. Life like this seemed so abundant as we drove through the cities on our way through the country. It’s hard to believe these blue buildings are all across this part of Namibia and the struggles that come along with them.

Peers’ Reactions:

First of all I like how the picture is overexposed because it gives it more of the desolate kind of feeling. The faded colors and the broken down walls show how this place is broken and barren. It has a cultural feel to it because that is how the majority of the population lives.

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At first glance it was difficult for me to see exactly what is in this picture. The desolation and simplicity of it reminds me of the general theme we have seen above the red line. Each town we have gone through appears to be minimalistic with the presence, or lack thereof, of buildings. However, the population is not lacking, therefore it shows how little these people live with. The picture itself is beautiful, but what it portrays causes my heart to sink. While I am used to living in a materialistic society that consumes an overabundance, the people of Africa that live above the red line must make do with what little they have. Those that possess a cinder block shack like this can be considered lucky in this area compared to most other families living in the same society.