



8th Grade Photojournalism Project

Name & Section:

Date:

Congratulations! You have just been hired for National Geographic or The New York Times as a photojournalist. Your first assignment is to create a photo essay about something that you *need* to share with the world. Photo essays are similar to a written essay because they tell a story. Each photograph should help build the story in the same way that each paragraph would contribute to a written article.

Think about it. What story do you want to share with the world? What is going on in New York City that you want to cover? Is there someone in your community that has an interesting story and you want the world to know about it? Is there a political issue (ex. homelessness, environmental change, the political climate, etc.) that you want to explore?

1. **Your story should include some text.** Look at National Geographic, the NY Times, or write your own article about your news story for extra credit. Make sure to credit the original source if borrowing text. Include the original author and source (ex. The New York Times). Let's say you wanted to cover the New York Marathon – you can find an article that was written last year, and create your photo essay using that text.
2. **Start to shoot. At least 1 roll of film or 30 digital images.**
 - a. Shoot *at least* one roll of film or 30 photos that illustrates your story based on the article that you've selected or created.
 - b. Of your 30 images you should have the following:
 - i. A Lead Image – may be from any of the below categories
 - ii. The Scene – where is your story taking place? Take some wider photographs that set the scene. Let the viewer know *where* this story takes place.
 - iii. Portraits – focus on one or a few people that say something about the story and *who* they are.
 - iv. Detail Photographs – take some *close up* images of objects that make your story memorable
 - v. An Illustrative Action Shot – this should show something 'happening' no matter how trivial, that helps tell your story
3. **Your story should have *at least 5 final images.*** Once you shoot 30 or more images, start to edit them down to the best 5-7. Choose at least one from each of the categories above.
4. **Choose a "lead image".** Every story should have one image for the front cover that is the most engaging or shocking. Choose 1 of your 5 images that will be printed larger than your other 4 (or more) images.
5. **Write your headline.** One sentence should grab the attention of your audience enough to read the article and look at your AMAZING photographs!

So...what are you shooting?



8th Grade Photojournalism Worksheet

Full Name:
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1. Time to commit. What is the “subject” of your photo essay? (20 points)

2. Text can be as simple as a caption, like on the NY Times Photo blog, or as complicated as a borrowed news story, of course you can write your own for extra credit. Which text option will accompany your photo essay? (20 points)

3. If you choose to write your own text for extra credit, or use a well-regarded major news outlet, or local paper for you're your article. Where will you get the text? (20 points)

Note: If you choose to bring in text from a news source, you must bring in the article as homework with this sheet.

4. Why is this topic/story important to you? (At least 5 complete 8th grade sentences) (40 points)