Photo Essay Assignment

Photograph a photo essay

Find a story and photograph a photo essay that illustrates your selection. Ten to twenty strong images are required for grading. Unless you are very lucky and quickly make a series of strong pictures, you will likely need to spend time photographing for your photo essay in a variety of ways at many different times. Do not wait until the last minute to find and photograph your photo essay.

If the presentation has left you unsure what a photo essay is or how you should approach your photo essay, be sure to read chapter 11 of the textbook (Kobre, Kenneth, and Betsy Brill. Photo Journalism: The Professionals' Approach. Boston: Focal Press, 2008.). We will also discuss your photo essay concepts in class. A photo essay is a collection of pictures that visually tells a story about a topic or theme. It is *not* a written essay.

Select ten to twenty images for grading. Your selected images need to have your name and caption embedded in the IPTC metadata; they also need to be submitted with the folder structure and rough edit of outtakes described in the Work Flow document.

Make your selection of images with an eye to the visual qualities of individual frames, their visual cohesiveness, and their ability to tell a compelling story.

Find a unique story idea and photograph it independently. Do not work in groups or pairs.

This assignment represents your final exam and is worth thirty percent of your final grade.

Requirements

- Photograph, caption, and submit a compelling, human-focused photo essay.
  - Select, caption, and process ten to twenty selected images for submission. Ensure that you use the folder structure and file naming conventions from the Work Flow document.
  - As with all other assignments, your pictures must be shot with your camera set to fully manual settings! Use of automatic ISO is not allowed. You need to know how to use the exposure triangle and meter effectively.
  - The topic/theme of your photo essay is up to you. Find a human-focused, newsworthy story that you find interesting and that you can photograph in a visually compelling manner.
  - As always, look for pictures where you can capture interesting composition, compelling color, appropriate light, intriguing gesture, and emotional moments.

- Aside from the portrait, the picture can not be staged. You can not interfere or influence the people or other elements in the scenes you photograph.
  - This is not a first-person assignment; you can not photograph your friends or family for this assignment. You need to have enough distance from what you are photographing to maintain a perspective of objective observation.
- Your photo essay must contain the following elements:
  - An establishing shot
  - A close-up or detail shot
  - A portrait
- Write your captions using the Associated Press (AP) caption formula.
- Ensure that your captions are factual, active, and include all relevant elements (Who, What, When, Where, and if relevant, Why/How). Do not include conjecture, personal opinion, or subjective language in your captions!
- Submit your work via iSpace one week before the last class. Exact date and time to be announced.
  - Format your folder structure, file names, file formats, and captions as described in the Work Flow document.
  - Write your captions in the IPTC metadata *description* field as discussed in class and covered in the Work Flow document. Include your name in the IPTC *creator* field.
- If you do not submit your assignment on time, there will be no opportunity to submit it later. Deadlines are extremely important.

Grading

Weighting is as follows:

- Do the pictures demonstrate an understanding of the assignment?   25%
- Submission format   25%
- Storytelling   10%
- Caption quality   5%
- Image elements
  - Exposure   5%
  - White balance   5%
  - Composition   5%
  - Use of light   5%
  - Use and understanding of aperture/shutter speed/ISO control   5%
  - Creativity   5%
  - Visual interest   5%