

COM3215 – Photojournalism Projects

Now that you understand what a photojournalist does and have analyzed some of their photos, it is time to take some of your own! Each of the following projects will test your knowledge and skills.

For each of these projects you will submit the following:

- 8 photos, at least 4 of which have people in them, imported into a Word Document (with an appropriate cutline under each one), submitted through the course website.
- A completed Project Marking Guide
- A completed photo log with at least 20 additional shots recorded, stapled to the Marking Guide

See the Project Marking Guide at the back of the handout for how marks will be assigned.

Project #1 – Dramatic Angles

For this project, you will shoot a number of photos from unusual or uncommon angles. You could shoot down from a chair, or up from lying on your back, or any other way you can think of. The possibilities are endless. Use your creativity. As long as your photos 1) are not shot from a common viewpoint and 2) at least half of them have people in them. And I shouldn't have to say this, but be sure to take these pictures from SAFE angles. Don't go hanging over the stairs hanging by one hand or anything silly like that.

Project #2 – Meeting People

For this project, you will take candid (unposed) pictures of people you don't normally interact with. These can be students or staff at the school, but please do not interrupt other classes without permission from the teacher first. After taking their picture, approach at least 2 of these subjects and explain that you are doing a class photojournalism assignment. Ask for their names, and include that information in your cutline. Do NOT just try and make up names. If I catch this, it will be a zero for the project. Be sure your cutlines explain the situation of your photo.

Project #3 – Lighten Up

For this project, you will shoot in various lighting situations. These situations include strong natural light (sunlight or moonlight), diffused natural light (cloudy or through a window), direct flash (straight from the camera), indirect flash (bounced off camera or diffused), and colored light (incandescent, fluorescent,

candle). Remember to turn your flash off if you are taking natural or colored light shots. Take photos in various lighting conditions. For your submissions, you must include at least THREE different lighting situations. Be sure to include information about the lighting in your cutlines.

From this point on, we will be following the minimum professional expectations for photojournalism:

- Photos must each be carefully adjusted in Photoshop or iPhoto for cropping, straightening, exposure, color correctness, sharpness, etc. Marks will be deducted if any photos clearly need work.
- COMPLETE cutlines. If people are easily identifiable, they MUST be identified in the cutline by their first and last name.

Project #4 – Compose Yourself

Identify the elements of good photographic composition and compose your photos in a way you believe creates a more dynamic photograph. See the website listed below for a refresher on elements of composition.

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2012/04/12/10-rules-of-photo-composition-and-why-they-work/>

For this project you will still submit the regular 8 photos, but 4 of them will be examples of good composition while the other 4 will showcase intentional compositional mistakes. In your cutlines, be sure to identify the good element of composition of “compositional mistake” you made.

Project #5 – Non-Academics

For this project you will take photos of non-academic activities around the school. This can include clubs, sports, gym activities, construction, foods, cosmetology, or even just people hanging out. But remember, these shots have to be interesting. You are trying to tell a story. Be sure to compose your photos properly so that the subject stands out.

Photography Project Marking Guide

Student Name: _____

Module: _____

Project #: _____

Composition – Composition is interesting and compelling. The photo has elements in the foreground, middle ground, and background.

/24

Focus – Main subject is in focus. Deliberate use of depth of field on other elements.

/24

Light and Contrast – Excellent use of lighting in all elements of the photo.

/24

Exposure – Good exposure with no loss of texture. Photo is not ‘blown out’ or too dark.

/24

Concept/idea – Unique and original idea and execution of concept.

/24

Photo Log – Includes required number of photos with all necessary data.

/20

Total /140

Teacher Comments:
