



Photo Essay Personal Project

Summit HS Digital Photography

Project Criteria

- Photo Essay Project is due: January 8, 2021
- 6-8 edited photographs that tell a story or adhere to a theme.
- 2-4 paragraphs explaining your photo essay.
- Photographs and text will be displayed in a Microsoft Sway presentation (Sway tutorial will be offered in class).
- Photo Essay Sway presentation link will be shared in the "Post Your Questions Here" channel AND turned into a Teams assignment.
- Extra credit will be offered to those willing to present their photo essay live in class on finals week!

What is a photo essay?

- A collection of photographs arranged to explore a theme or tell a story.
- A photo-essay is a set or series of photographs that are intended to tell a story or evoke a series of emotions in the viewer.



Charros by Cesar Rodriguez-Becerra

The Charrería is Mexico's only national sport. It is said that to be a good Charro you have to learn how to ride a horse before you can walk. This is a photo series of the behind the scenes of what happens at the festivity. The Charrería is a way of life, not just a sport, the Charros practice all their life in order to be one of the best in the whole nation. Sometimes, the riders are kids with no education, and they see the Charrería as a way out of the misery. If they succeed, they will be superstars.

Thematic vs. Narrative Photo Essay

Thematic

- Thematic photo essays speak on a specific subject. For instance, there were numerous photo essays put together in the 1930s to capture the ruin of The Great Depression. Though some of these presentations followed specific people or families, they mostly told the "story" of the entire event. There is a lot more freedom with thematic photo essays, and you can utilize numerous locations and subjects. Text is less common with these types of presentations.

Narrative

- Narrative photo essays are much more specific than thematic essays, and they tend to tell a much more direct story. For instance, rather than show a number of scenes from a Great Depression Era town, the photographer might show the daily life of a person living in Dust Bowl America. There are few rules about how broad or narrow the scope needs to be, so photographers have endless creative freedom. These types of works frequently utilize text.

Thematic vs. Narrative Photo Essay

Thematic



Narrative



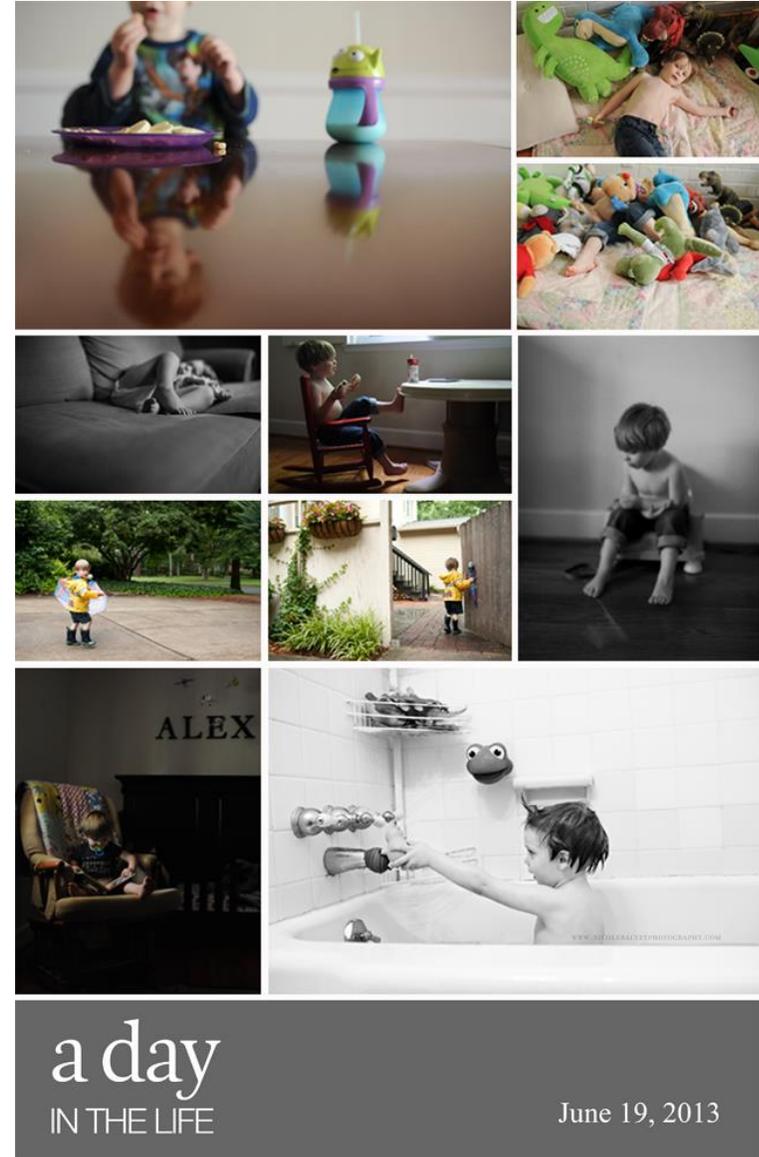
Other examples

<https://money.cnn.com/katrina/index.html>

THE PRISONERS WHO CARE FOR THE DYING AND GET ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE

Choosing a Story, Topic, or Theme

- The most natural method for choosing a topic or theme for your photo essay is to go with what you know. Photograph what you experience, observe, and feel. Whether that includes people, animals, objects, or the things you think about throughout the day; accessibility is key here.
- Remember you should choose a topic for which you can collect relevant data/images easily. If your surroundings do not have wildlife nearby you should not select wildlife as the focus of your photo essay. You should pick a topic that you are passionate about but have enough resources to collect relevant photos for.



Resources/Credits:

- [5 Tips for Creating a Photo Essay with a Purpose](#)
- [5 \(More\) Photo Essay Tips](#)
- [Pictures That Tell Stories: Photo Essay Examples](#)
- [The 30 Best Photo Essay Topics for High School Students](#)

Overview of Steps to Completing a Photo Essay

- Choose a topic or theme
- Do some research, if necessary
- Make a storyboard
- Take photos! And keep taking photos!
- Assemble your story
- Edit your photographs
- Type your topic statement



Analyze past student Photo Essays

- On the [class blog](#) I included several links. Choose at least 3 links to view some of the photo essays produced by past students (I recommend viewing all of them!). Then choose one that you find most interesting and write down/type your answers to the following questions in your notes:
 - 1) What is the photo essay about?
 - 2) What kinds of things do the photos show us?
 - 3) What made this photo essay interesting to you?
 - 4) Did you learn anything from the photo essay? How did it make you feel?