

What Is A Photography Essay?

- 1. A photo essay is a narrative that uses a group or series of photographs placed in a specific order to tell a story, evoke emotions, emphasize a specific concept or a progression of events.*
2. A photo essay is a way to tell a story from beginning to end, with substance and a meaningful content.
3. Photography essays can be either just photographs or photographs with comments, captions or text that accompany them to complete the story.

What Elements Should A Photography Essay Include?

A photography essay should include the following elements.

- Contextualization
- Opening
- Development
- Conflict
- Continuation
- Climax
- Resolution
- Closing

Some photographic essays include only some of these elements. Not all essays will allow such a complex storyline.

5 Steps Involved In Creating A Photography Essay:

1. Pick A Topic

Choosing a good topic can be difficult without prior research. This is perhaps the hardest part of creating a photographic essay.

Select a topic that won't be so hard to access

Some typical photographic essay topics include:

- The City
- Color
- Joy
- Fear
- Sadness
- Love
- Everyday Work

2. Choosing The Subject Correctly

Check to see if your subject is suitable and the story you are planning to tell will be interesting for your target audience.

3. Quantity Of Images

Defining the number of images in your final essay is important for the following reasons:

- This will set the bar of our project's scope – depth and breath
- The story should be told from start to finish with high impact, just like a short novel or a story. *If we stuff our essay with “filler” images, it will ultimately lose its power.*

4. Execution

Look for perfect light, relevant locations relating to the story to be told, perfect subjects for the story and also compositional guidelines.

Story telling photographs for a photography essay need to be powerful – emotional!

5. Editing

Editing refers to the precise selection of the images that will be included in the essay.

You need to be very objective to select the perfect mix to tell the story the way you want it to be told.

Ask yourself questions like, do the photographs speak the story or will they require accompanying text, is the sequence or series logical, do they stand together and complete the story from start to finish, etc.

Try and tell the story with minimal images by avoiding repetition as that can bore the viewers.

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