

CMM 307 ASSIGNMENT 2 - The Photo Essay - due 2/20

The photo essay is a particular form of photojournalism where, instead of using a single image to accompany a particular story, an entire series of images are done. This is an approach that is no longer used much in newspapers, but is still employed in news magazines, (both hard copy and on-line) such as **Time**, **Newsweek**, and the **New York Times** magazine.

For this assignment, you will be putting together a photo essay on a subject of your choice. The photos should explore an issue or person, and should convey meaningful information to a would-be audience. Try to imagine your essay in some publication.

This photo essay can be a real situation which you document, or it can be partially, or entirely fabricated by you. I'd rather see an interesting essay that is fabricated than a dull one that is non-fictional.

Include a brief introduction to the photo essay, plus **brief** captions for each photograph.(1 or 2 sentences only) Write these all on a separate piece of paper, not on your prints, and typed, not hand written. Keep your captions strictly descriptive, not interpretive. Look at examples of captions for photos in newspapers before you write your own.

Subject matter: anything is possible, but I would like you to be specific, not vague. Students usually do better on this assignment when they choose a topic that they have some personal connection to.

Examples:

a day in the life of a particular student, friend, or relative of interest

- please make this person representative of some newsworthy issue

an issue on Le Moyne campus: drugs, alcohol, cultural diversity, eating disorders, grade pressure, romantic relationships

- an event on campus, such as an athletic event, or preparation for a play

- a particular neighborhood in the city, or in your home town: the people, the houses and other buildings, playgrounds

- distinctive or unusual neighborhoods work better for this

- rural poverty outside of Syracuse: weathered, run-down structures

- interesting characters in downtown Syracuse

- a rally or march, if this is available

Example of an idea that wouldn't be appropriate:

- my roommate baking cookies; my friend putting make up on

Variety of viewpoints - you need to use at least 3 of these, in 3 separate photos:

1. Introductory or overall shot that establishes the subject or scene
2. Close-up: isolates one element, like a person's hands or an intricate detail of a building
3. Portrait (if incorporating people in your essay): either close up or in his or her environment
4. Interaction (again, if using people) : people conversing or in action
5. Closer: a shot that would end the story

shooting mode:

- as with Assg 1:
 - CDC's: use Program or Manual mode on your camera
 - this mode should allow you to set the ISO and flash mode manually
 - SLR's: Program is good choice; make sure shutter speed doesn't fall below 1/25

lighting:

- shoot indoors or outdoors, whichever suits your purposes
- you can use flash indoors, if necessary

suggested ISO settings:

- outdoors in sun: 100
- light overcast: 200
- heavy overcast: 400
- indoors: 400 to 1600

Resolution or picture quality setting: same as Assg 1: 6 to 10MB

REQUIREMENTS:

shoot and save: about 40 total pictures

- you can try more than one viewpoint of your chosen subjects

hand in:

- 2 contact prints showing at least 40 images
- 6 prints
 - use at least 3 of the viewpoints listed above and write viewpoint on back of prints
 - remember the separate type-written sheet w/ intro and captions - **brief!**

Due dates:

on 2/11: we will discuss your chosen ideas in class

on 2/20: contact prints and prints