

CMM 307 ASSIGNMT 4: Decisive Moment - due 3/25

This assignment will give you an idea of how photojournalists work, when they are covering fast-breaking newsworthy events. They need an awareness of the visual elements needed to make a successful photograph, and to use those elements, to make a photograph that has impact or tells a story. They cannot direct or pose their subjects.

Decisive Moment means photographing people involved in some activity and you, the photographer, capture a moment when elements within the frame come together to make for a compelling photograph. This must be done **without posing** or directing your subjects. So you are looking for spontaneity.

You can, however, provoke a reaction from your subject to get a more interesting photograph. Some reactions are more interesting than others. Examples?

1. Subjects

to some extent, you can photograph people you know, but try at least a few of people you don't know

- do not photograph strangers who you think, if they notice you're photographing them, may react in a hostile way

candids (subject unaware of the camera) generally work better

- if subject is aware of you, their response can sometimes make an interesting pic

2. locations:

shoot some pics outdoors, if weather and photo-ops allow it

possible locations - anywhere people congregate; **more crowded the better:**

- sports events, on or off campus, indoor or outdoor
 - stick w/ spectators; action sport shots are an entirely different issue
- parties
- at a bar
- playgrounds and parks – only if crowded; subjects here are usually kids
 - if subjects are children: guys forget it; ladies talk to parents first
- downtown Syracuse – can be a good choice if you can find a place where people congregate
- St Patrick's day parade
- spring break may open other possibilities
- more ideas?

3. Techniques

shooting mode: Program is best

when shooting indoors: you'll probably need to use flash, unless it's a well lit area

you can zoom in sometimes if you want some distance

bring a friend with you; students have said this is a major comfort factor

spend some time at location: this will make you more comfortable, and possible subjects less aware of you

work close to your subject when possible

try some **creative viewpoints**, such as from below, **to add impact**

REQUIREMENTS:

Shoot and save: 45 images

Hand in:

- 2 contact prints; I'd like to see at least a few strangers here
- 4 prints and 2 contact prints on 3/25; these 4 prints should be of different people