

**Script: Photojournalism**  
**Faculty Member: Mark Hinojosa**

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Photojournalism is the art and practice of telling stories with images. A good photo captures the attention of the viewer and holds it. These storytelling images are different from casual photographs because they show intentionality.

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A good news photograph attempts to explain a situation or event by distilling it to a moment of captured action. The photographer stands in for the viewer, capturing images that add understanding to the story.

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News photographs are documents, stories, reporting and, as such, they must be truthful. Just as you would never make up a quote for a story, you should never pose a photo, unless that photo is a portrait.

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So what do good photos do? They can illustrate the story, showing the viewer who or what the story is about.

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They can add additional information, showing a physical location or the relationships between subjects.

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And, because it's often the first part of the story that a reader encounters, a strong image helps hook the reader into the story.

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So what makes a photograph good? We say a good photo is easy to "read." Good photos use good composition that helps the viewer focus on the subject of the photo and with lighting that makes it easy to view the action.

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Good photos capture peak action, the moment that best tells the story.

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They help show relationships and interactions between subjects in the story.

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And, they have good technical qualities; they are well cropped and properly exposed.

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How do photographers get those great images? By understanding their stories and with thorough preparation.

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Just as a reporter does with a story, photographers need to prepare for the visual interview.

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Be interested in your subject's story: this is how we break down a subject's barriers, helping the subject relax and making for better photos.

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Pay attention to what your subject is doing: look for action leading up to something.

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Don't "hit and run." Stay with the subject. The more time you spend, the better your photos will be.

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Watch what is going on. Events that unfold in front of you may lead to a different understanding of the story.

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Good composition makes it easier for the viewer to "read" the photo. A rather simple way to improve the composition of your photos is known as the "rule of thirds."

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Let's see how this photo of reggae artist Bob Marley matches up to the rule of thirds grid.

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If we divide this photo into thirds, we can see that the microphone and Bob Marley's face align in the first third of the frame, leading you into the photo. His arm falls along the bottom third, leading you out of the frame. The composition of this photo helps move the viewer's eye across the frame.

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Low angle light that evenly illuminates the subject is essential to a great photo. If you are out shooting in the mid-day sun, for example, take your subject to an area of open shade or go inside and use window light.

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Large windows are one of the best sources of good light. The sun doesn't need to be shining directly through them. Just pull up the shades or draw the curtains back so that light can come through.

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Photographers often say the best camera to use is the one you have with you. Most of us carry a multi-featured camera in our pockets every day – the camera in our smartphones. If used the right way, it will produce great results.

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The biggest drawback to using your cellphone as a camera is the inability to change lenses. Because of this, cellphone cameras have limited flexibility. But if you are looking for a camera to shoot an overall photo or tight portrait, then your phone can be a great tool.

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If you are using a DSLR camera to take photos, you will need to understand how to control exposure.

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Three factors, known as the “exposure triangle,” make up proper exposure. This is the balance of ISO, the sensitivity you set the camera to; the size of the aperture, how much light is getting in, and, finally, shutter speed, how long the shutter exposes light to the sensor.

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ISO is just a way to talk about how sensitive to light we tell the camera to be. A high ISO means that you can shoot in lower light. But high ISOs also mean that your photo will look worse because of digital noise.

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So the higher the ISO, the worse the visual distortion known as digital noise. On the right is an example of digital noise from a high ISO compared to the same image on the left shot with a lower ISO.

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The size of the opening that light passes through in your lens is called the aperture...

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...also referred to as the f-stop.

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The bigger the number, the smaller the opening.

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You can use different f-stops to control how much of the photo is in focus. This is called depth-of-field. The larger the f-stop, the greater the depth-of-field.

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You use depth of field to control how much of your image is in focus.

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This is how different f-stops change a photo's depth-of-field. You can see how much more of the photo is in focus the higher the f-stop.

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Shutter speed is how long the sensor in your camera is exposed to light.

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By exposing the sensor for a short time, like  $1/500^{\text{th}}$  of a second, you are using a fast shutter speed. Faster shutter speeds freeze action.

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By exposing the sensor for a longer time, like  $1/30^{\text{th}}$  of a second, you cause action to blur.

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Here is an example of what a fast shutter speed looks like freezing action.

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Here is what action looks like when using a slow shutter speed. It's important to note that this photo is in focus. What you see is motion blur as the students climb the steps. See how sharp the stairs and bannister are?

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If you want to stop or freeze action, then you need a faster shutter speed. Sometimes you will need to increase your ISO so that you can use a faster shutter speed.

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If you're going to edit your photos, you will need some basic photo editing software. There are several free choices available on the web. Gimp is one that works on both Macs and PCs. It will allow you to crop and color correct your photos.

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When you crop photos, you use many of the same rules that you do in composing photos: make sure the photo comes in on the action...

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... and adjust its composition using the rule of thirds.

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Edit photos so that you have multiple choices...

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Including wide, medium and tight shots of a situation.

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Edit for peak action and...

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... try to find both vertical and horizontal photos, if possible.

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Let's look at how to crop a photo using Gimp. Open the photo in the program and select the cropping tool.

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Draw the crop box around the photo the way you want it to be cropped.

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When you have it the way you want it, push the Enter or Return key on your keyboard to crop the photo. Give it a new name and save it.

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A photo caption helps the reader understand what is going on in the photo and why it's important. Captions are often made up of two parts: the first tells you who is in the photo and what they are doing,

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...and the second part tells you why it is important.

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A good photo caption, like a story, includes the Who, What, When, Where and Why of what is going on in the photo.

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Captions should identify who is in the photo. All names should be spelled correctly.

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What is in the picture? Tell us what is going on.

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When? The date, including the day of the week and year should be in the caption.

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Where? Be specific, use city and state.

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Why? Explain what is going on and why it is important to the story.

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Simply put, photos report facts. They must not be set up to recreate an event or posed, with the exception of a portrait. Your photos must tell the truth.

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This includes editing and toning your photos. You may not use software to add or remove elements of the photo. Your editing should be restricted to cropping and toning your photo. Anything else is a lie.