

This Week's Focus: Photojournalism

This photo by Kansas City Star visual journalist [Emily Curiel](#), taken during the Kansas City Chiefs and the Miami Dolphins playoff game on Jan. 13, captured the exact moment when Patrick Mahomes' helmet cracked on contact with a Miami defender. It's a example of photojournalism at its best, but introductory journalism students may not recognize the difference between photojournalism and art photography.

THE LESSON: Define 'photojournalism'

To get that conversation started, I give my students a whole bunch of Post-it notes and access to a lot of photojournalistic websites. These include, but are not limited to, the following sites:

- [New York Times "Lens"](#)
- [Time Magazine "LightBox"](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize winners page](#) (see JEA lesson at right)
- [National Scholastic Press Association \(NSPA\) award winners](#)
- [National Geographic photography](#)
- [CNN Photos](#)

Using their Post-its, first, students spend 20 minutes or so individually perusing as many photos from the sites as they can. Over time, as they determine what they think are defining qualities of those photos, they jot those qualities down — one idea per Post-it. Then, in small groups, students work to combine their Post-its into common subgroups. Some of these may be composition terms (rule-of-thirds, lines, etc.) and some may be larger concepts (action, candid, emotion).

The teacher then uses those student-generated Post-it subgroupings to discuss larger photojournalism vocabulary. What you'll see is while students may not know the exact correct terms, they're often in the right wheelhouse from their observations.

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG: Exploring Pulitzer Prize-Winning Photos

Description

Students will learn about the Pulitzer Prize, then use different Internet resources (including the [Pulitzer Prize website](#)) to research Pulitzer Prize-winning photos. They will then present what they've learned to a small group of students and turn in a written summary of their learnings.

Objectives

- Students will be able to conduct mini research projects on topics about photojournalism, evaluate sources for their accuracy and present what they've learned concisely to others.
- Students will be able to actively listen to their peers to learn from them.

The link

The link to the full lesson is [HERE](#).

NOTE: This lesson is available free to **everyone** during the dates listed at the top of this page. Want to have access all the time? If you're not a member yet, consider joining JEA today for access to all of the resources.



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You can do anything but not everything. There will always be more to do — know your boundaries, stick to them, and learn to prioritize the tasks that'll make the biggest impact with the least effort from you.

Team-Builder

Brianna Sheen, Cypress Creek High School, Houston, Texas

PLAY-DOH MONSTERS

I did not invent this. Give each kid a small amount of Play-Doh, making sure each kid has only one color but that there are multiple colors represented throughout the group. Give them five minutes to build a Play-Doh monster and name it. Then, have them find someone with a different-colored Play-Doh monster, introduce themselves and swap a body part off their monster for one off their partner's. Repeat this two to four times as time/class size allows. At the end, vote on who has the best monster. Ask students to raise their hand if they think their monster is better at the end than it was at the beginning. Lead a discussion about how collaborating makes the end product better, teamwork is important, etc.

You've Got Style

*Suggestions from Cindy**

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

An acronym is a word formed from the first letter or letters of a series of words:

laser (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation)

An *abbreviation* is not an *acronym*.

Do not follow the full name of an organization or company with an abbreviation or acronym in parentheses or set off by dashes. If an abbreviation or acronym would not be clear on second reference without this arrangement, do not use it

* Style pro Cindy Horchem, CJE, is a retired adviser and the current JEA business and projects coordinator