

This Week's Focus: The Eclipse

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By all accounts, the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, will be a spectacular celestial event. Counties in Texas have already declared states of emergency to help prepare for the onslaught of millions of visitors. Universities and other schools from Texas to Maine have closed for the day. Inevitably, it will be a unique topic for coverage in the scholastic media, online and in print.

Now is the time to start preparing.

Scholastic photographers and reporters should consider taking pictures of more than just the eclipse itself. Get the action, interaction and reaction surrounding the event. Find people who have set up their telescopes to view the eclipse projected on a wall. Find people in groups all wearing glasses staring up at the sun. Talk with science teachers about the physics of the eclipse. Compile a timeline of eclipses in the town 50 years before 2024 and 50 years after 2024. Interview 25 students about their experience and publish a quote collection. Engage in social media before, during and after the event. Coverage that focuses on people will be more successful than coverage focusing on things.

The next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States will be on Aug. 23, 2044.

PHOTO INSPIRATION

Check out Wilson's C:JET eclipse photos from 2017. Click [HERE](#) to see more.



Bradley Wilson, MJE, is also the editor of *Communication: Journalism Education Today*

WILSON'S SUN SAFETY TIPS

Taking photos of the eclipse itself requires the use of special neutral density filters and extremely long lenses (400mm or more). Photographers have learned that without special equipment, their camera will start melting and smoking after about 45 seconds of pointing at the sun with a telescopic lens. While the sun will be blocked by the moon it is still not safe to look directly at the eclipse or to photograph it directly without at least a \$30 neutral density filter, a ND100000 filter, which reduces the light by 16.5 stops.

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG Capture the Moment

Description

In this lesson, students will learn about the importance of storytelling in journalistic photography. Using selected student photography, they will discuss the visual impact that can occur when photojournalists capture unique storytelling moments.

Objectives

- Students will learn about capturing storytelling moments in photography.
- Students will explore recent work in photojournalism and evaluate photos based on Joe Elbert's hierarchy of photography.

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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Suggestions from Cindy*

SPACE TALK

From the *heavenly bodies* entry:

- Do not capitalize sun and moon.
- Earth is capitalized only when used as the proper name of the planet.
- Capitalize the proper names of planets, stars, constellations, etc.
- Lowercase nouns and adjectives derived from the proper names of planets and other heavenly bodies.

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