**Photo Essay Project: Composition Rules**

Photographers do not exist simply to take pretty pictures – their success is found in the ability to tell a story without words. A collection of photographs for the purpose of telling a story is called a photo essay. Many times, photo essays appear in newspapers as photo spreads. A good photo essay includes around 10 photos from a variety of viewpoints, but all photos are clearly about the same topic.

In groups, you will use what we have been learning about photo composition to create a photo essay of a particular subject or topic at school or in the community. Your topic is just as important as your content, so please take the time to choose a good topic.

Keep in mind that a photo essay can be poignant, humorous, thought-provoking, or informative. A good photo essay will always affect the viewer in some way. As you are planning and editing your photos, keep the following questions in mind: First, “What is the story that I am trying to communicate to my viewers?” Second, “How do I want my viewers to be affected by this presentation?” Plan, edit, and present your photos in order to accomplish that purpose.

**Captions**

In addition to shooting and presenting the photographs, for each photo, you should include a caption that is written in correct format and appropriate for the photo’s topic and photo credits. If your photos correctly address a topic and tell a story, you should not have any problems writing captions to go along with them.

**Project Requirements:**

* Work alone or with a partner.
* Decide on a topic.
* Take photos that correctly use composition rules and communicate a compelling story.
* Use photo editing software to edit/prepare photos.
* Write appropriate and descriptive photo captions.
* Use design software to create a newspaper page as a photo spread.

For your photos, consider including different elements of your story. While the elements do not necessarily have to be sequential, you might want to utilize one or more of the following strategies for your photo story:

1. Beginning/middle/end
2. Wide/medium/close up
3. A variety of subjects (all related to the story)
4. A variety of composition rules

This project is worth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Deadlines:**

Have photos taken: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Project due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_