

Lesson #8

Photojournalism Project

- You will pick and complete three of the following six assignments.
- Name your photos with your last name, followed by the number. For example, I need to see something like: smith1, smith2 and smith3.
- Save your photographs in the yearbook folder. That way, if someone on staff sees something you've done and wants to use it later, they may.

Note: These should all be new work. I won't accept photos you took last summer, or photos pulled from your album. I'm counting on your honesty; if something in an image makes clear that it was taken before this semester, I won't give you credit.

Assignment One

- Dramatic angles.** Shoot a photo of people or scenes around campus from unusual angles. You might shoot down from the top of a stair. Or shoot up lying on your back. Or shoot someone framed by something else. Or really close in on something. Or shoot a seldom-seen view of something. Use your creativity, as long as: 1) it's not the common viewpoint; 2) at least half your photos have people in them. I suppose I don't need to tell you not to try anything dumb like lying on railroad tracks or shooting down a well?
- Meeting folks.** Shoot a photo of people doing things on campus, preferably outside, but in well-lit areas (window light recommended) if it's too cold. Take candid (unposed) pictures of people you do not know. After taking their picture, approach at least two or three of these subjects. Explain that you are doing a class photojournalism assignment, and ask for their names, including proper spelling. Write down names on a notepad, numbered in sequence so you can later match your names to photos (you may wish to also describe surroundings to help you later match the name to the image).

Assignment Two

Light fantastic. A photo relying on several common qualities of light. Include at least three different examples from these options:

- strong natural light, dramatic shadows and highlights. May be sunlight, strong window light.
- flash on camera, pointed directly at subject. If you don't want to use the flash, try setting up a lamp.
- flash off camera, bounced off a ceiling or wall. If your flash won't bounce, try a white hankie or Kleenex.
- diffused light, cloudy day, classroom, filtered through window.
- colored light: incandescent, fluorescent, candle.

Include people in your photo. Be able to discuss your lighting technique.

Assignment Three

Special topic, travel photography. Take a photo in or out of town to offer a "sense of place" through a photo. Here are some ideas:

- long or medium photo to establish the scene.
- photo of a significant detail.
- informal portrait of a person doing something.
- photo you think helps tell the story, emphasizing people.

By the way, snaps of your friends at school don't constitute a "sense of place" for this assignment. If you're not going anywhere, use Lake Andes as a travel project.

Assignment Four

Special topic, news and features. Choose a newsworthy event to cover: a speech, a press conference, a meeting, a protest, a concert, bad weather, an accident, etc. Shoot one photo, trying to emphasize unusual angles, getting in close, interesting lighting, etc. Photos must contain people, unless people are part of crowds or too far away for easy identification.

This photo must not include direct flash on camera, but may include bounced flash using cardboard, the walls, or the ceiling (Or natural lighting, of course).

Assignment Five

Special topic, personality portraits. At least one film emphasizing personality portraits: people doing things that help to tell a story of their character. You may rely on friends or relatives as subjects, but they CANNOT 1) just stand or sit there looking directly into the camera (formal mugshot); 2) be talking on the telephone, sitting at a student desk, shaking someone's hand, typing at a computer or reading a book, unless you can find a radically new and different approach. The photo must be of people. Your photo must not include flash on camera, but may include bounce flash, or natural lighting.

Assignment Seven

Special topic: sports. Choose any sport you like, and shoot a photo of dynamic action, emphasizing the excitement of the sport. Recommended are daytime outdoor sports, as they offer the best light needed to stop fast action. Try to get as close as you can to the action; some sports are difficult to photograph without telephoto lenses, which we don't have. Keep in mind that we **do** have a zoom and you can use it! Parlor games (a chess tournament, for instance) probably don't count for this assignment, but if you can convince me with great photos. Indoor sports action photos may be taken with flash on camera, although I discourage it because of the blur factor.

I look forward to checking out your photojournalistic art!