

Photographic Essay: Exploring a Theme, Trend, or Phenomenon

Due Dates: Topics, 9/21; Initial Draft w/ photos, 9/28; Final Draft, 10/12

For this second assignment, you will be writing and creating a photographic essay, a genre that combines both *visual* and *textual* elements. Photographic essays take on a range of issues and concerns – from a focus on an individual, to groups and communities, to trend and phenomena – and often seek to construct a **narrative** about the topic. What story do you want to tell about your subject? We will look at examples to see how others have done this.

You get to choose the topic or focus of the photo essay – and it can be on almost any possible subject...with the following two caveats: 1) you have to use your own photographs, so you must have access to the subject (whether person, group, thing, etc.); 2) it can't be about you and / or your family / friends unless they also represent or reflect a particular idea, theme, trend that has (sub)cultural resonance (e.g. your family is a troop of contortionist acrobats).

Each essay must meet the following:

- Include a minimum of 9 original photographs
- Include a variety of shots, as outlined on the handouts “Week Five – The Photo Essay” and “5 Types of photos” and as discussed in class
- Include about 1000 words of text, both narrative and captions

We will construct the essays using MS Word, but you should feel free to use photo-editing software (e.g. Photoshop) if you would like to manipulate the photos in any way.