



LESSON PLAN

STRUCTURE:

Overview

Outcomes

Preparation

Procedure



App:



LESSON NAME: Journalistic photo essay

DURATION: 3 x 45 min

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OVERVIEW

The power and influence of pictures on our decisions, opinions and feelings has never been greater. In today's world of being able to take an image everywhere and anytime easily by our smartphones, one should think there is nothing new to learn since our gadget can do everything for us.

In this lesson, students learn how to create their own photo essay in five pictures. The lesson starts with students discussing possible messages that pictures can communicate. It continues by students being introduced to the theoretical basis of a good photo essay and the steps that need to be followed to achieve a powerful results. Then, individually, they take photos of an event or on a specific theme and create and present their works.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will be able to:

- Distinguish the photos with a story behind them from poorly taken photos.
- Demonstrate understanding of the basics steps and rules in creating a powerful photo essay by following them while creating their own photo essays.
- Demonstrate understanding of journalistic photos' power by discussing the current photos in the newspapers.
- Develop a draft of their photo essay
- Record his or her knowledge by creating their own photo essay

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PREPARATION AND MATERIALS

- Students will install Snapseed application into their smartphones and get acquainted with it so they can easily use it once they are satisfied with their choice of five pictures for the photo story.
- The teacher prepares some good examples of the pictures which tell stories and bring the newspapers to show good examples of journalistic photos.

PROCEDURE

- **Project** chosen examples of photos on a wall. Make sure all the details of the photos are clear.
- **Guide** students through making observations and inferences about the photos by asking them the basic journalistic questions of Who, What, Where, When, How and Why or use App 1. Questions to develop visual literacy.
- **Ask** students if they have heard about a photo stories/essay before.
- **Explain** the main features of a photo story using PPT presentation (App 2)
- **Brainstorm** ideas and topics for students' photo essays. Some of your suggestions could be: Someone to admire, My beautiful day, An event in my hometown, My neighbours, A day at my school etc.
- **Ask** the students to draft the outlines of their stories by creating a shotlist of the desired shots they would need to tell the story.
- **Check** their outlines if they show understanding of the story essay basics.
- **Give** homework assignment to your students to shoot their photographs.
- **Help** your students to choose the photos which illustrate their story according to their script outline the best. Once they happy with their five photos of their photo essay, they can start editing the photos using Snapseed application.
- **Let** them decide if they want to caption their stories or not. However, keep in mind that captions can not only explain the photot but to gain the interest of the viewer.
- **Assign** one lesson for presentation of their work and answering possible questions from their classmates. You can also have an exhibition of their work in a school hallway for others to see.



Appendix 1: Questions to Develop Visual Literacy

1. Where did your eye go first? Then where? And after that? Think or write about why this happened.
2. Would you describe the picture as simple or busy? How does this affect the journey your eye took in question 1?
3. Where is the light coming from? How can you tell? If this is an outdoor photograph, what time of day might it be? Which are the brightest parts of the picture? The darkest parts? How do the answers to these questions about light affect the mood of the picture?
4. Which parts of the picture are sharply in focus? Which parts are softer or out of focus? How does this affect the way you look at the photograph?
5. Look harder at the photograph. List some of the details you might not have noticed at first. Include information about people, places and things and nature, including the climate or the weather.
6. How do the answers to question 5 help you know where and when the photograph was taken? What do they tell you about the people in the photograph?
7. Where is the photographer? Is he or she above, below or at the same level as the subject of the picture? Is he or she near or far away? What kind of information do you get because of these things? What kind of information might you get if the photographer were closer up or further away?
8. Keeping all these things in mind, if you had to write a caption which expressed in one or two sentences what this picture is about, what would you say?
9. In your opinion, why did the photographer want you to see this picture?

(taken from: <http://newdeal.feri.org/classrm/partr2.htm>)