



Overview

This assignment focuses on the principles of storytelling and narrative photography, emphasizing the importance of composition, emotion, and intention behind each shot. Students will learn to capture images that convey a deeper message and engage the viewer through thoughtful visual storytelling.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the importance of mood, relationships, and intent in storytelling photography.
- Master the use of composition techniques to enhance narrative elements within the frame.
- Develop a personal visual style that communicates stories effectively.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

The Art Of Storytelling Photography	How To Find Your Photography Style	
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Before You Shoot

- Identify a subject or scenario that has a clear story to tell.
- Plan your shoot by considering the emotions you want to evoke.
- Gather props or elements that can enhance the narrative of your images.
- Scout locations that will contribute to the storytelling aspect of your shoot.
- Consider the time of day for optimal lighting that matches the mood of your story.

Assignment Tasks

1. Photograph a local event or gathering using aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed. Focus on capturing the interactions and emotions of the participants.
2. Create a photo essay of a day in the life of a friend or family member. Use shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed to capture their movements and routines.
3. Select a quiet moment in a public place and use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed to capture the mood and atmosphere of the scene.
4. Document a personal story or memory through a series of five images, using shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed to capture dynamic moments.
5. Photograph a still life arrangement that tells a story using found objects, employing aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed to control depth of field.
6. Capture a moment of connection between two people, using shutter priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed to convey the emotional intensity of the interaction.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a narrative series that contrasts two different locations or subjects, exploring how each tells a different story. Use varying aperture settings to enhance the mood.
- Conduct an interview with your subject and capture images that complement their narrative, ensuring to shoot in both aperture and shutter priority modes for variety.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do take the time to observe your subject and the environment before shooting.
- ✓ Do focus on capturing genuine emotions and interactions.
- ✓ Do experiment with different compositions to enhance the storytelling aspect.
- ✓ Do pay attention to the lighting and how it affects the mood of your images.
- ✓ Do create a series of images that collectively tell a cohesive story.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rush the process; take the time to think about the story you want to tell.
- ✗ Don't rely solely on posed shots; candid moments often tell the best stories.
- ✗ Don't ignore background elements that may distract from your subject.
- ✗ Don't use heavy post-processing that detracts from the authenticity of the narrative.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider the emotions you want to evoke in your viewers.

Reflection Questions

- What emotions did I aim to capture in my images, and how successfully did I achieve that?
- How did my choice of composition enhance or detract from the story I wanted to tell?
- In what ways did the lighting conditions affect the narrative of my photographs?
- What did I learn about my personal style through this storytelling exercise?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set shutter speed for depth of field control.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to create varied perspectives on the same story.
- Incorporate natural light to enhance the emotional tone of your images.
- Utilize leading lines in your composition to draw the viewer's eye toward the subject.
- Employ a shallow depth of field to isolate your subject and emphasize the story.

Creative:

- Capture candid moments that reveal genuine emotions and interactions.
- Tell a story through a series of images that represent different aspects of your subject.
- Use contrasting elements (light vs dark, calm vs chaos) to create tension within your narrative.
- Incorporate gestures and body language to add depth to your story.
- Experiment with framing and angles to present your narrative in a unique way.