



Overview

Storytelling / Narrative Photography is a captivating approach that combines visual elements with narrative depth to convey emotions and messages through images. By focusing on composition, lighting, and subject matter, photographers can create images that resonate with viewers and tell compelling stories.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the key elements that contribute to effective storytelling in photography.
- Learn how to utilize camera settings to enhance narrative impact.
- Develop skills in composition and lighting to convey emotions and messages.

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](#)

Before You Shoot

- Identify the story you want to tell and the emotions you want to evoke.
- Scout locations that enhance your narrative and provide meaningful context.
- Plan your shots based on the time of day for optimal lighting conditions.
- Gather props or elements that contribute to your visual story.
- Prepare a shot list to ensure you capture all necessary elements of your narrative.

Assignment Tasks

1. Photograph a family gathering at f/4, 1/60s, ISO 800 in aperture priority mode to capture interactions and emotions.
2. Shoot a street scene at f/5.6, 1/250s, ISO 200 in shutter priority mode, focusing on candid moments that tell a story about urban life.
3. Create a portrait of a subject in their environment at f/2.8, 1/125s, ISO 400 in manual mode, emphasizing their connection to their surroundings.
4. Document a local event at f/3.5, 1/500s, ISO 1600 in aperture priority mode, capturing the energy and atmosphere of the occasion.
5. Capture a quiet moment in nature at f/8, 1/60s, ISO 100 in manual mode, focusing on the details that tell a story about the environment.
6. Create a series of images depicting a day in the life of a person at f/4, 1/125s, ISO 400 in shutter priority mode, highlighting their routine and experiences.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a photo essay with a minimum of 10 images, each at f/5.6, 1/125s, ISO 800, exploring a social issue or theme.
- Experiment with double exposure photography to combine two narratives into one image, using f/2.8, 1/60s, ISO 400.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do plan your shots based on the story you want to tell.
- ✓ Do engage with your subjects to capture authentic emotions.
- ✓ Do pay attention to the background to ensure it complements your narrative.
- ✓ Do experiment with different lighting conditions to enhance mood.
- ✓ Do review your images regularly to assess your storytelling effectiveness.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on posed shots; candid moments often tell better stories.
- ✗ Don't ignore the importance of composition; it can make or break your narrative.
- ✗ Don't overlook the role of lighting; it significantly affects the mood of your images.
- ✗ Don't rush through your shooting process; take the time to observe and compose.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider the context of your subjects and their environment.

Reflection Questions

- What story did you aim to tell with your photographs, and how did you convey it?
- Which technical settings did you find most effective for storytelling?
- How did you engage with your subjects to enhance the narrative?
- What challenges did you face in capturing your story, and how did you overcome them?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use a wide aperture (f/2.8) to create a shallow depth of field, isolating your subject and enhancing emotional impact. Set shutter speed to 1/125s and ISO to 400 in manual mode.
- Set your camera to continuous focus mode to keep moving subjects sharp while capturing dynamic storytelling moments.
- Adjust white balance based on your lighting conditions to ensure accurate color representation, enhancing the mood of your photographs.
- Utilize spot metering to ensure proper exposure on your subject, especially in high-contrast scenes.
- Experiment with exposure compensation (+1 or -1) to adjust for challenging lighting situations, ensuring your story is visually compelling.

Creative:

- Incorporate leading lines in your composition to guide the viewer's eye through the narrative.
- Use contrasting colors to highlight emotions and themes within your story.
- Capture candid moments that reveal the relationships and interactions between subjects.
- Create a series of images that together tell a broader story, using sequencing to enhance the narrative flow.
- Experiment with different angles and perspectives to provide unique viewpoints that enrich the storytelling experience.