



## Overview

This assignment teaches how to capture compelling narrative photographs that convey emotions and stories through thoughtful composition and lighting. Students will learn to observe their surroundings and utilize elements that enhance the storytelling aspect of their images.

## Learning Objectives

- Understand the importance of mood, relationship, and intent in storytelling photography.
- Apply composition techniques that serve the narrative and evoke emotion.
- Explore the use of lighting and angles to enhance storytelling.

## 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 a subject or theme that tells a story.
- Scout locations that enhance the narrative you want to convey.
- Plan your shots by considering the mood and emotional impact.
- Gather a list of potential elements (props, people, settings) to include in your shots.
- Ensure your camera is set to either aperture priority or shutter priority mode with ISO 200 fixed.

## Assignment Tasks

1. Photograph a scene that tells a story about a local event, using aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed.
2. Capture a portrait of someone engaged in an activity that reflects their personality, using shutter priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed.
3. Create a series of three images that together tell a cohesive story about a day in the life of a local artisan, using aperture priority mode at f/3.5.
4. Document a family gathering, focusing on interaction and emotions, using shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed.
5. Take a photo that embodies a specific mood (e.g., joy, nostalgia) by carefully considering lighting and composition, using aperture priority mode at f/2.8.
6. Photograph a solitary figure in a public space to convey a sense of isolation, using shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed.

## Stretch Tasks

- Create a photo essay consisting of 5 images that narrate a personal story or experience, using various techniques learned in this assignment.
- Experiment with low-light storytelling by capturing images at dusk or dawn, utilizing aperture priority mode to achieve desired exposure.



## DO / DON'T

### DO

- ✓ Do take time to understand the emotional context of your subjects before shooting.
- ✓ Do use composition techniques that enhance the narrative of your photographs.
- ✓ Do experiment with different lighting conditions to evoke various moods.
- ✓ Do engage with your subjects to capture authentic moments.
- ✓ Do review your images after shooting to analyze how well they convey your intended story.

### DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on post-processing to fix poorly composed images.
- ✗ Don't ignore the emotional aspect of your subjects; aim to capture genuine interactions.
- ✗ Don't be afraid to move around your subject to find the best angle for storytelling.
- ✗ Don't use overly complex setups that distract from the narrative you want to convey.
- ✗ Don't forget to check your settings before starting to shoot; ensure you are using the correct priority mode.

## Reflection Questions

- What emotions did you aim to convey in your chosen narrative and how did your images reflect that?
- How did your choice of lighting and composition impact the storytelling in your photographs?
- What challenges did you face in capturing a narrative and how did you overcome them?
- In what ways did engaging with your subjects enhance the storytelling aspect of your images?

## Technical & Creative Focus

### Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode at f/4 to create a balanced depth of field while allowing the camera to adjust shutter speed.
- Utilize shutter priority mode at 1/250s to capture movement in your narrative shots.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to see how they affect the storytelling aspect.
- Pay attention to the direction and quality of light in your scenes.
- Consider using backlighting to create dramatic effects that enhance the story.

### Creative:

- Capture candid moments that reveal emotions and interactions.
- Frame your subjects in a way that guides the viewer's eye through the story.
- Incorporate leading lines in your composition to draw attention to the main subject.
- Use negative space strategically to emphasize your story.
- Experiment with different perspectives and angles to find the most compelling view.