

 **SEE THE**

STORY



Welcome to the World Press Photo Exhibition 2017. This lesson will help you understand more about photojournalism. We invite you to not only look at a photograph, but to actually see it, to think about what the photograph depicts and about the story behind the photograph. You are invited to think about how a press photo represents the news, how a photograph's meaning is influenced by its form, and about the importance of press freedom.

The lesson is divided into standard questions, questions that prompt discussion, and questions that require thought and reflection. Ask your teacher if the latter also applies to you. You may tackle these questions in pairs or in groups. Fill in your answers below the questions. Make sure you have a pen or pencil ready at hand. For questions that prompt discussion, allow others to finish their statements and listen to one another's arguments.

Have fun!

ALBUM

 **OFF!**

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Migrant Crossing,
Vadim Ghirda,
The Associated Press
Find this photograph.



What do you see in the photo? Try and describe it as accurately as possible.

What do you think could have happened? Where do you think the event took place?

It is difficult to give a concise description of 'news.' What is news to some, is unimportant to others. News in Buenos Aires might not be news in Beijing. Because there is a lot happening in the world all the time, it is impossible for media to report everything. Therefore, editors and news agencies use criteria to make a quick selection of news.

Three characteristics, of which news will always signify at least one, are important in regards to this:

- 01. News is something that almost no one knows about yet, which has just happened, or is still happening. For example, that one thousand refugees have just crossed the border or that the earth is still warming.
- 02. News is something that has major consequences for many people. For example, that a densely populated area is suffering from extensive flooding. Or that war has just broken out. The value of news is something personal and depends on how you are connected to an event. It can depend on the country you live in and on your interests. For example, a traffic incident could be published in a national newspaper, but might not be interesting for people in other countries.

The photo on the previous page is news about something that has major implications for many people.

As a lot happens around the world, not everything can be broadcast everywhere and every time. Therefore, editors and news editors make a quick selection. Things they keep in mind during the selection process are for example diversity within news, significance, objectivity, national values and political protocol. Elements that are considered before the selection, whilst gathering the information, are for example the safety of journalists. If an area is very dangerous, journalists might decide not to go there or editors decide not to send them. The news gives people a better view of the world, and makes them aware of social and political issues. The way the news is interpreted depends on the viewer, an aspect such as for example what country you live in influences your interpretation.



Find this photograph and read the caption after the 1st question.
Inside the Philippines' Most Overcrowded Jail,
Noel Celis,
Agence France-Presse

02
**WHAT IS
PHOTOJOUR-
NALISM?**

The role of photojournalism has become more important over the past century. News sources have increased, and instead of only the newspaper and television there are a lot of other outlets such as news websites and social media.

Photojournalism aims to visually record current events, both planned and unplanned. Images taken by photojournalists can also be used as a visual documentation of history. You might have seen historical photographs in your history books.

One of the most important parts of photojournalism is truthfulness. It is important that photojournalists record scenes rather than creating or changing scenes. It is also important that they try to get the 'full picture'. Digital photographs are processed, and contrast or saturation edits are allowed. However, photojournalists cannot add or remove content from the photograph.

When it comes to portrait photography, a photojournalist is allowed to help create the scene by asking the subject to pose in a certain way. However, they cannot change the face or the body, or say that the portrayed has a different name. Photographs of people are very important because they influence how people see themselves and how others, around the world, view them.

As there have been instances where photographers have not respected the rules of digital manipulation, and of truthfulness whilst taking the photograph, trustworthiness is now a very important issue.

The reason why photojournalists work in difficult environments (for example war zones) is to show the world what is happening in these areas, in the hope that people stand up and improve the situation.

Press photographers can sometimes tell stories that are not yet known to many people, and by doing so, teach us about the world we live in. They want to bring attention to the terrible things that happen, so that we can take action and tackle these issues.

How do you think the situation in the photo of Noel Celis has come about?

Do you think this could happen in your country?



Taking a Stand in Baton Rouge,
Jonathan Bachman,
Reuters
Find this photograph and read
the caption.

What effect does this photograph have on you?

Discussion Do you think Ilesha Evans thought about her picture being taken and how this would come across in the media?



Find this photograph and read
the caption.
An Assassination in Turkey,
Burhan Ozbilici,
AP

03
PHOTO OF
THE YEAR

This is the picture which won this year's World Press Photo of the Year. The jury awarded this photograph, that shows Mevlüt Mert Altıntas right after he shot and killed Russian ambassador Andrey Karlov.

What do you feel when you see the photo of Ilesha Evans and why?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you see this photograph?

Which characteristics of news are reflected in the photograph? (See page 02)

Discussion Do you agree with the jury's choice? Please elaborate on your answer.

04 EMOTION

What Is Left Behind
Magnus Wennman,
Aftonbladet
Find this photograph and read
the caption.



A press photograph can conjure up strong emotions in the viewer. You may think: "How awful!". Or: "Wow, how beautiful!". By calling on emotion, the photographer can gain the viewer's attention. This can be a powerful method of telling a story.

Discussion Which emotions are generated by this photograph?

Discussion Why do you think the photographer chose to take a photograph with only a child?



Find this photograph and
read the caption
Caretta Caretta Trapped,
Francis Pérez

05 MORE THAN JUST A PHOTO

Photojournalism involves much more than war photography. An example of this is the photograph above.

Sometimes photographs can symbolise a larger story, which goes further than what can be seen in the actual photograph.

At first glance, the girl in the photograph on the previous page is being comforted by her mother: the smaller story. A good press photograph, however, depicts more than what is simply shown at first glance. A photograph can be a symbol for a larger story. The girl in the previous photograph symbolises the refugee crisis, and the challenges refugees encounter as part of their journey.

What is the smaller story behind the photo above?

Discussion Does this photograph symbolise a larger story? If so, explain why.

Sweet Makes Champions,
Wang Feijun
Find this photograph.



Describe your first impression of this photo as precise as possible.

Does this photograph symbolise a larger story? If so, how?

How would a series made in Amsterdam or Los Angeles be different? Would such a series win an award? Please elaborate on your answer.

Press freedom means that journalists and press photographers can report on all events without being obstructed, taken prisoner or killed. It also means that what they produce is accessible to everyone and that it can not be hidden by anyone, no matter how powerful it is.

Why is it important for journalists and photographers to work freely in the countries they are reporting on?

06 FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Cuba on the Edge of Change,
Tomas Munita,
The New York Times
Find this photo series.



What impression do you get of Cuba when looking at this series?

Find this photograph and read the caption after the 2nd question.
Offensive on Mosul,
Laurent Van der Stockt,
Getty Images Reportage for
Le Monde



Press photographers and journalists sometimes risk their lives in order to show us what is happening in the world.

How can you tell it was dangerous to take this photograph?

Despite the dangers involved, why do you think the photographer found it important to take this photograph?

07
FORM

Grand National Steeplechase,
Tom Jenkins,
The Guardian
Find this photograph and read
the caption



Anyone who takes a photograph takes form into account. In a selfie you want to show your best or most interesting side. Professional photographers are very conscious of looking for the right angle for a photograph, something also known as perspective.

A photojournalist must not set up a scene beforehand. However, he or she can choose whether a photograph is taken at close range or from afar for a broader scope. A photograph can be taken from above or below. There is also the choice of black and white versus colour. All these decisions determine how the event photographed will be depicted. In the end, the photographer decides how you see the event that he or she has documented.

What effect does the photograph's perspective have on you?

Would the photograph be as interesting if the photographer took it from far away? Please elaborate on your answer.

Find this photograph,
Standing Rock,
Amber Bracken



What do you think is happening in the photograph?

Name at least one symbol in the photograph and explain its meaning.

If you have some spare time, wander around the exhibition and continue to discuss what you see around you today.

Thank you and until next year!

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Photos

Vadim Ghirda

Romania, The Associated Press

Francis Pérez

Spain

Noel Celis

Philippines, Agence France-Presse

Wang Tiejun

China

Jonathan Bachman

USA, Reuters

Tomas Munita

Chile, for The New York Times

Charlie Cole

USA, Newsweek

Laurent Van der Stockt

France, Getty Images Reportage for Le Monde

Burhan Ozbilici

Turkey, AP

Tom Jenkins

UK, The Guardian

Magnus Wennman

Sweden, Aftonbladet

Amber Bracken

Canada

Colophon

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WORLD PRESS PHOTO



SEE THE STORY PHOTO ATTACHMENT & INSTRUCTIONS

01. Fill in your name on the cover.



02. Cut out your picture of the year from the attachment and paste it on the cover.



03. Fold all the pages of the book through the center with the printed side on the outside.



04. Put all folded pages in order.

05. Bind your booklet by stapling it on the open side of the folded pages.



Note: Print pages single-sided.

Read the instructions above to construct your own photo album. Or learn more at: www.worldpressphoto.org/seesthestory.