

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

EXHIBITION
2024

**SCHOOL
GUIDE
2024**



© Wang Naigong

Visual thinking: questions from the stories

Name : _____

School : _____

Welcome to the World Press Photo Exhibition 2024

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 the story behind the photograph.

You will think about how a press photo represents the news, how a photograph's meaning is influenced by its form, and the importance of press freedom. The lesson offers questions that prompt discussion. Fill in your answers in the empty spaces under the questions. Make sure you have a pen or pencil ready at hand.

What do the credits tell me?

Each photograph contains credits. These credits tell us the title of the image, the name of the photographer, his or her country and the agency or media where the photo was first published or commissioned.

Why is press freedom important?

The creation, publication, and display of the visual stories presented in the exhibition raise reflections on freedom of expression, freedom of inquiry, and freedom of the press.

Press freedom means the right for journalists to share news without anyone censoring them, by telling them what to say, omit, or write.

The creation of texts and photos depends on these freedoms. However, in many parts of the world, these freedoms are absent.

Even in countries considered open, they are often under threat and can never be taken for granted.

Photo of the year

A Palestinian Woman Embraces the Body of Her Niece



This photograph shows Inas Abu Maamar (36) cradling the body of her niece Saly (5) who was killed, along with her mother and sister, when an Israeli missile struck their home in Khan Younis, Gaza. The photographer, moved by this moment as his own wife had just given birth, captured the scene at the Nasser hospital morgue, where Inas was desperately searching for her relatives.

This event highlights the importance of press freedom, which is essential for documenting and disseminating often-overlooked realities. Without this freedom, many stories would remain in the shadows, depriving the public of a complete understanding of global issues and injustices.

© Mohammed Salem

Questions

1 Why is press freedom important?

2 How can the press be threatened or protected?

3 Do freedom of expression and press freedom exist in Canada?

Can stories focus on solutions as well as problems?

Saving the Monarchs

The *Saving the Monarchs* series by photographer Jaime Rojo shows how stories can both reveal problems and offer solutions. It highlights the challenges faced by monarch butterflies, which are at risk of extinction.

Despite these challenges, the project also emphasizes the efforts of many people working tirelessly to protect these butterflies.

His photos highlight the need to rethink our relationship with nature. They show how everyone can take action to save the monarchs.

This project proves that together, we can make a difference in preserving these magnificent creatures.



Wendy Caldwell of Monarch Joint Venture and Timothy Fredricks of Bayer Crop Science (foreground) flag milkweed, as pilots Drew Smith and Christine Sanderson fly drones that survey milkweed abundance. New Germany, Minnesota, United States, 13 July 2022.

© Jaime Rojo, *National Geographic*

Questions

1 How does this series of images differ from other images you've seen about the climate crisis?

2 How do you think stories about the climate crisis should be presented visually?

3 What effect does a story that provides solutions have on you?

How do photographers develop relationships and get consent from the people they photograph?

The Two Walls

Since 2019, Mexico's migration policies have undergone a profound change, transforming a nation historically open to migrants and asylum seekers at its southern border into a country that enforces strict immigration rules.

Based on his own migration experience, from his native Venezuela to Mexico in 2017, photographer Alejandro Cegarra began this project in 2018.

He takes great care to obtain the consent of the migrants he photographs. His personal journey allows him to create connections based on shared experiences, facilitating respectful and collaborative exchanges.

Consent goes beyond mere permission. It is seen in deep understanding and the respect for the stories and boundaries of the people who are photographed.

This project gives the photographed individuals the power to tell their own story while advocating for social change.



Ruben Soto, a migrant from Venezuela, sits with Rosa Bello, a Honduran migrant, on top of a freight train known as "The Beast." Ruben and Rosa met in Mexico and fell in love on their way to the United States. Samalayuca, Mexico, 8 May 2023.

© Alejandro Cegarra, *The New York Times* / Bloomberg

Questions

1 Why is it important to have the consent of people being photographed?

2 What are photographers responsible to do when they're getting this consent?

3 What are the risks of not having the consent of people being photographed?

How can complex issues be photographed?

Mapuche: The Return of the Ancient Voices

The Mapuche are Indigenous communities living in territories that are now part of Argentina and Chile.

A large portion of their ancestral lands is being commercially exploited for mining, forestry, and hydroelectric projects.

Discrimination and sanctions against Mapuche activists persist, despite new laws that appear to support their rights.

Photographing the complex issues of the Mapuche people requires more than just images. Photographer Pablo E. Piovano captures the harsh realities faced by this community, which suffers discrimination and mistreatment.

Here, the trust between the photographer and Machi Millaray, a Mapuche authority, made it possible to portray their resilience and cultural pride. It turns this photo project into a tool for awareness and social change.



Children wear traditional Ngillatun masks in a Mapuche cemetery. The local community successfully opposed the building of a hydroelectric dam that would have flooded an adjacent ceremonial site. Maihue, Los Ríos, Chile, 28 July 2019.

© Pablo E. Piovano, Greenpeace Award, *GEO*, *National Geographic*

Questions

1 How can complex issues, such as those faced by the Mapuche, be photographed?

2 How can we show the impact of human activities on the environment and the people suffering from them?

3 How can photographers create a coherent story using long-term projects?

Are graphic or shocking images useful?

Revolution in Myanmar

The military coup in Myanmar in February 2021 overthrew the civilian government and led to nationwide protests, which were violently suppressed by the military.

Led by the People's Defense Forces, the armed resistance turned into a civil war. The jury appreciated the emotional investment and courage of the photographer, who took great risks to capture the persistence of the struggle.

Are blunt or shocking images effective for conveying a message? While they can reveal injustices in a clear and direct way, these images also have drawbacks. They can mentally affect those who view them, causing stress or trauma.

That's why it's important to use such images with great caution, carefully considering the timing and manner in which they are shown.



Daw Hla Win, a 34-year-old mother of three, stepped on a landmine as she returned to her village from collecting blankets at a camp for internally displaced people, in an area of intense fighting. Shan State, Myanmar, 29 July 2023.

© Ta Mwe, Sacca Photo, VII Foundation, Frontline Club, W. Eugene Smith Grant

Questions

1 Do we need to see shocking images to understand what is happening in the world?

2 What should be considered before showing explicit or violent images?

3 What would happen if difficult-to-watch images were never shown?

What is the importance of titles and captions?

Title

A Day in the Life of a Québec Fire Crew

Fuelled by high temperatures and dry conditions, gigantic summer forest fires swept across Canada in 2023, affecting all

13 provinces and territories, especially northern parts of Québec. The record-breaking fire season began early and ended late, burning nearly three times more land than usual.

The jury felt that the iconic composition of this single image stands as a powerful symbol of our losing battle against climate change, and a metaphor for our collective arrogance in the face of the crisis.

Charles-Frédéric Ouellet is the first photojournalist from Québec to win a World Press Photo award in 25 years.



Caption

Théo Dagnaud scans the horizon to ensure that firefighter patrols have left, and he can mark the area as “controlled.” Québec, Canada, 13 July 2023.

© Charles-Frederick Ouellet, for *The Globe and Mail*, CALQ

Questions

1 Why is the title of a photo important?

2 What is the importance of a caption (the text that describes each photo)?

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CALENDAR!**

Starting 1 June 2025,
you can book your next school visit to the
World Press Photo Montreal exhibition:

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Write to us: info@wppmtl.ca

Thank you for your visit!

We look forward to
seeing you again next year,
between 27 August
and 12 October 2025.

