

# Photo-essay

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A pictorial essay is a genre that humanists and journalist and memoir writers often produce. It continues the narrative form but in a way that carefully integrates visuals and text where the visuals do the heavy lifting of the narrative.

Of course, photographs also can spin a narrative and create emotion in the reader. Still images can have a poetry within them that propels and comments on the narrative. Seen from various perspectives, they are as open to interpretation as a novel. The text on the page limits, shapes, guides and controls the interpretation of the photo.

The pictorial essay has many forms and lengths. One form often consists of

- a short unstructured abstract,
- brief introduction,
- subheadings to organize the material
- captions for the photos
- a summary.

You may use references if you want, and if you do so, create a works cited list. Let's try to limit the amount of text in these essay to allow the pictures to speak. Try not to go over 1,000 words max. You can create a "figure legend" in you need to add information as background to your pictures. Figure Legends are most often used in science writing, however. I would suggest limiting your photos and other figures to not more than 15 or 20 max.

Examples of photo essays in the world outside the academy include:

- An article in a publication, sometimes a full page or a two-page spread.
- A book or other complete publication.
- A web page or portion of a web site.
- A single montage or collage of photographic images, with text or other additions, intended to be viewed both as a whole and as individual photographs. Such a work may also fall in the category of mixed media.
- An art show which is staged at a particular time and location. Some such shows also fall into other categories category.
- In fashion publishing especially, a photo-editorial—an editorial-style article dominated by or entirely consisting of a series of thematic photographs

<http://time.com/3687500/photojournalism-links-january/> Best photo essays of the year.

## Your assignment:

**Due:** April 26, last day of class as part of our class visual exhibit!

**Restrictions:** 1000 words max, 15-20 pictures max

**Workshop:** To begin to put together in class on 4/10—bring ideas, maybe a b&w print out of pics cut out?

**Suggested Organizing Topic:** Journey into.....(you name it). It will serve as your journey journal

**Alternatives for those not coming:** Document some other journey (a real physical one, a mental/spiritual one, or your journey in this class)

**Freedom:** Please feel free to shape yours as you please—web based or print

**Bring a camera or phone to use for taking pictures!**