

# Photojournalism

## **What is Photojournalism?**

Photojournalism is a particular form of journalism (the collecting, editing, and presenting of news material for publication or broadcast) that creates images in order to tell a news story. It is now usually understood to refer only to still images, and in some cases to video used in broadcast journalism. Photojournalism is distinguished from other close branches of photography (such as documentary photography, street photography or celebrity photography) by the qualities of:

Timeliness — the images have meaning in the context of a recently published record of events.

Sobriety — the situation implied by the images is a fair and accurate representation of the events they depict in both content and tone.

Narrative — the images combine with other news elements, to make facts relatable to the viewer or reader on a cultural level.

Like a writer, a photojournalist is a reporter but he or she must often make decisions instantly and carry photographic equipment, often while exposed to significant obstacles (physical danger, weather, crowds).

Wikipedia

## **Foundation of Photojournalism**

The practice of illustrating news stories with photographs was made possible by printing and photography innovations that occurred between 1880 and 1897. While newsworthy events were photographed as early as the 1850s, printing presses could only publish from engravings until the 1880s. Early news photographs required that photos be re-interpreted by an engraver before they could be published.

On March 4, 1880, The Daily Graphic (New York) published the first halftone (rather than engraved) reproduction of a news photograph.

In 1921, the wirephoto made it possible to transmit pictures almost as quickly as news itself could travel. However, it was not until development of the commercial 35mm Leica camera in 1925, and the first flash bulbs between 1927 and 1930 that all the elements were in place for a "golden age" of photojournalism.

## **The Golden Age**

In the "golden age" of photojournalism (1930s–1950s), some magazines (Picture Post (London), Paris Match (Paris), Arbeiter-Illustrierte-Zeitung (Berlin), Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung (Berlin), Life (USA), Sports Illustrated (USA)) and newspapers (The Daily Mirror (London), The New York Daily News (New York)) built their huge readerships and reputations largely on their use of photography, and photographers such as Robert Capa, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Margaret Bourke-White and W. Eugene Smith became well-known names.

## **Life Magazine**

*Life*, one of America's most popular weekly magazines from 1936 through the early 1970s, was filled with photographs reproduced beautifully on oversize 11x14-inch pages, using fine engraving screens, high-quality inks, and glossy paper. *Life* often published a United Press International (UPI) or Associated Press (AP) photo that had been first reproduced in newspapers, but the quality magazine version appeared to be a different photo altogether.

# Assignment #3

## PHOTOJOURNALISM: ON ASSIGNMENT

### **What to shoot?**

Individually, you need to shoot 15-20 images mimicking the style of a photojournalist. Your images should document an event (sports, news, etc) telling a story about what was happening at the time. Even though these shots will be quick, you must still maintain good composition and exposure.

The camera should be set on manual settings:

**manual** mode

you will decide on the shutter speed, aperture and ISO that best suits your available lighting

Clean up and color correct your photos. Then, choose your best 3 images. Write a cutline for each. Using Word, insert your photograph and type your cutline underneath (similar to that in a newspaper).

For your cutline, use Helvetica or Times font set at 9 points.

### **What to turn in?**

15-20 images + Word doc in one folder labeled "lastname\_photojournalism"  
print out of your best image plus caption (print from Word)

### **Where to turn in?**

Drop Box

# Research THE CAREER

Using the internet, research Photojournalism and answer the following questions in a Word document called, "lastname\_photoresearch.doc".

What type of person best suits this career?

Education?

Employment options?

Salary?/Compensation?

Equipment used?

Professional organizations associated?

Research 2 photojournalists, historical or contemporary. In the same Word document, record their names and employment/what they do. Include 2 to 3 samples of their work.

# Photojournalism CUTLINES

**Cutlines Checklist**  
**American Press**  
**Institute**

Photo cutlines require information, taste, judgment and imagination.

The best cutlines do more than explain a photo. They pull readers into the story. Apply the same standards of accuracy to cutlines as you apply to stories and headlines. Avoid simply repeating the headline. Never write a cutline without first seeing the photo, and always be aware of the crop.

It is the responsibility of the photographer to write the cutline. It should accomplish four important things:

1. Explain the action.
2. Name the principals.
3. Tell why the photo is being used.
4. Note the important or telling details in the photo.

In writing or editing cutlines, you should be able to answer yes to these questions:

Have you used the present tense? (Use the past tense when adding background, not describing action.)

Have you used the active voice? (Passive-voice writing is weak writing.)

Does the cutline identify, fully and clearly? (Never leave out someone who figures prominently in the photo.)

Does it tell when?

Does it tell where?

Does the cutline contain all the important information? (For example, does it give the score of the game, the status of the patient? A caption should be able to stand alone.)

Are names spelled correctly?

Is it easy to read?

Have you eliminated cliches?

Have you weeded out needless adjectives and adverbs?

Have you explained all mysterious objects or circumstances?

Have you gone beyond the obvious? (It is the job of the cutline to supply information that is not obvious from the image.)

(Example) Poor: A smiling Gorbachev waves to the crowd. Better: Gorbachev greets party-goers in Red Square. The festive atmosphere demonstrated a new mood inside the Kremlin.)