

# WHAT MAKES A GREAT PHOTO

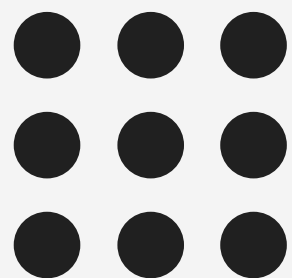
**ALL IMAGES ARE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC  
PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARD-WINNING  
STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY**

**ENTOURAGE ESSENTIALS: DAY 11**



# DONOW:

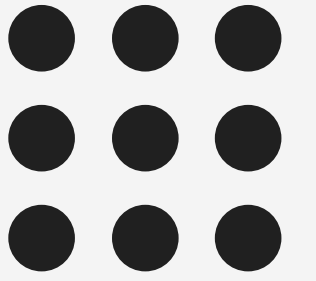
what makes a great photo?  
(list at least 3 qualities)



**WRITE IT DOWN, BE READY TO SHARE**



# OBJECTIVES:



understand the process of photography

learn composition techniques to  
improve your photography skills

plan a photo shoot with your partner



# PHOTOJOURNALISM

using images to tell a story

communicating news  
through photographs

**WE SEE THE WORLD  
THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY**



# THE PROCESS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Thinking and Feeling
2. Seeing
3. Taking
4. Selecting
5. Editing
6. Sharing



# TELLING A STORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHY:

**composition**  
(arranging elements in  
your frame)



**TELLING A STORY  
WITH PHOTOGRAPHY:  
COMPOSITION  
TECHNIQUES**

**HOW TO TAKE A  
GREAT PHOTO:**







# GET CLOSE

## FILL THE FRAME!

Eliminate unnecessary background

"If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough."

-Robert Capa





# SYMMETRY

VISUAL  
BALANCE  
BRINGS  
STABILITY  
AND  
HARMONY





# ANGLES:

## FIND UNUSUAL ANGLES

If you're sitting or standing like everyone else, you're probably going to take back some blah photos. Kneel. Climb on a chair. Crouch. Lie down. Shoot down a stairway. **Good photojournalists are always moving.**

Ross Collins





# POINT OF VIEW





# CONTRAST

use  
contrasting  
tones and  
colors to  
draw  
attention to  
your subject





# DEPTH AND LAYERING

includes other elements at varying distances from the camera to add depth

shows a clear foreground, the middle, or the background





# LEADING LINE



The viewer's eyes are naturally drawn along vertical lines, parallel lines, diagonal lines, and even strong horizontal lines.

Use lines to direct the viewer to your subject.



# LEADING LINE



describe  
how the  
lines direct  
your eye  
around  
this image





# CAPTURE EMOTION









# RULE OF THIRDS



placing your subjects off-center yields a stronger, more natural-looking composition







What story does this tell?  
What composition techniques do you see?





# FRAMING

frame  
elements to  
emphasize  
and lead the  
viewer's eye  
towards your  
subject





# FRAMING

how is the  
subject  
being  
framed?

what other  
composition  
techniques  
do you  
notice?





# PATTERN REPETITION

repeated elements  
can add interest to  
your images





# LEAVE SPACE

simplistic  
backgrounds  
allow the  
viewer to  
focus on the  
subject.

# NEGATIVE





# BACKGROUND PHOTO



Negative  
space allows  
you to add  
text on top of  
a photograph

**SUBHEADLINE**

# HEADLINE HERE

Body copy! Body copy! Body copy! Body  
copy! Body copy! Body copy! Body copy!  
Body copy !Body copy! Body copy! Body  
copy! Body copy! Body copy! Body copy!  
Body copy! Body copy! Body copy! Body





# LOOK FOR LIGHT

Use interesting light sources to your advantage.

Good photojournalists carefully analyze the light falling on their subject, and find an angle which best enhances the scene. For instance, if a subject is bending over, the face may be in shadow. Wait until they stand. If a subject is seated next to a window, wait until they turn toward this attractive light source.





# WAIT FOR THE MOMENT

It's all about  
timing.

There are times  
when the photo is  
only there for an  
instant.

**TIME IT RIGHT.**





# GROUP PORTRAITS

compare these two debate team photos:



# POSED PORTRAITS

subject is aware of camera (minimize these shots)

# CANDID

taken informally, without the subject's knowledge.



**GET THE FULL NARRATIVE**

**BEFORE  
DURING  
AFTER**



**ANTICIPATE  
THE ACTION  
BEFORE IT  
HAPPENS.**

**POSITION YOURSELF  
TO CAPTURE IT.**



ALL OF YOUR  
IMAGES WILL NOT  
BE PERFECT.  
THAT'S OKAY. IT'S  
BETTER TO HAVE  
MORE OPTIONS.

SHOOT A LOT.



**MUST SHOW EMOTION**

**MUST HAVE A FOCAL POINT**

**SUCCESSFUL COMPOSITION**

**MUST DRAW THE VIEWER IN**

**GOOD COLOR/CONTRAST/LIGHT**

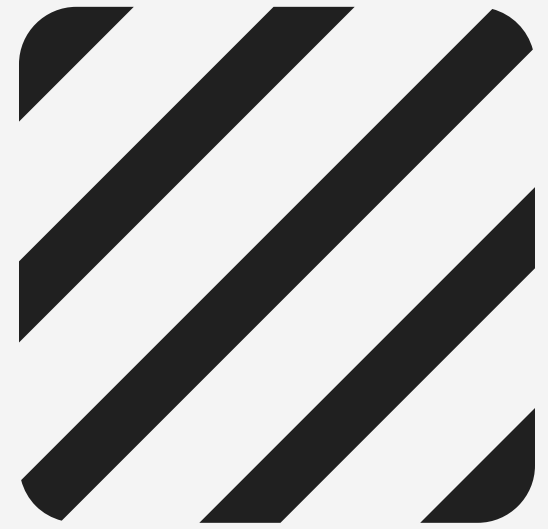
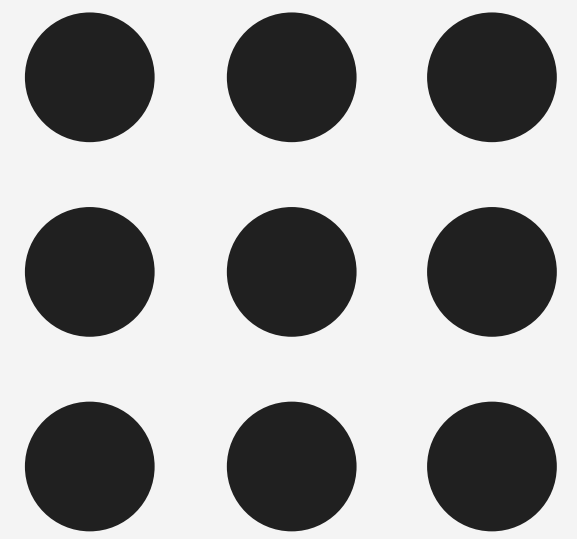
**NO DISTRACTING ELEMENTS**

**NOT BLURRY**





# ASSIGNMENT:



Tell your partner's story through 7 photos using a variety of composition and lighting techniques. Include one posed portrait, one group portrait, and the rest should appear candid.



Complete the planning sheet to help you. You will be given a short amount of class time to shoot plan to schedule more time.



# PHOTOGRAPHY REQUIREMENTS

## EMOTION/STORY



Image captures emotion and is relevant to the topics of the spread. The photographs work together to tell the full story.

## COMPOSITION



Evident compositional techniques have been used. Images draw the viewer in.

## QUALITY



Excellent use of color/contrast/light. No distracting background elements. Not blurry, has proper focus.