

Photo Essay

A typical photo essay is a set or series of photographs that are intended to tell a story or evoke a series of emotions in the viewer (or both!). You will be visually cataloguing some aspect of life here in Chicago or its suburbs—the subject could be yourself, your friends and family, a location you find interesting, or even strangers on the street: it's your choice!

Whatever the case, I would like you to capture 10 – 15 images that pertain to a theme of your choosing. For example, if you spend a lot of time commuting, perhaps your theme could be “my life in transit,” a compilation of images from public transportation.

While this is not a course in photography, it is important to consider the composition of each photo you include in your essay. Read “[10 Top Photography Composition Rules](#)” for some basic tips on taking compelling photos.

Required Elements

- 10 – 15 carefully chosen photos that relate to a theme you've chosen
- 750 – 1000 words (in total) that expound on your photos and chosen theme:
 - Choose if and how you want to break up the text with your photos. For instance, you might want to introduce the series with a 250 word introduction, and then provide short captions under each (or a grouping) that count toward the total.
 - Use *The New York Times* (see Multimedia/Photos) or other publications (*Harper's Magazine*, *Mother Jones's*) for inspiration!

Deadlines

- **Either print out or bring a working version on a laptop Monday, Oct. 6.** We will workshop these in class. If you don't print it out, you'll need to bring a laptop with the assignment loaded into it: tablets and phones won't do.
- **By Wed, Oct. 8,** upload a revised copy of project to the D2L Dropbox.