



Digital Photo Essays

Teaching with Digital Tools

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What is a digital photo essay?

Image + Text

- ❖ Tells a story
- ❖ Makes an argument
- ❖ Explores an idea
- ❖ Artist Statement
- ❖ Gallery Tour

Options

- ❖ Public (social media)
 - Conversations beyond the classroom
 - Students create a separate Instagram account
- ❖ Private
 - Subject matter
 - Students submit a Document or PowerPoint

Why assign a digital photo essay?

- ❖ Digital literacy
- ❖ Multimodal composition
- ❖ Larger audience
- ❖ Language abilities
- ❖ Creativity and visual learning
- ❖ Enjoyable
- ❖ Effective

Is a photo essay right for your class?

- ❖ Place-based inquiry
- ❖ Response to a text
- ❖ Express abstract idea
- ❖ Community engagement

Example Assignment Sheet

Included below

Instagram Photo Essay Assignment Sheet

For this assignment, you will use Instagram to construct a photo essay about a place. You will post at least 20 photos to Instagram and link your Instagram feed to your website. Your photo essay must have a cohesive theme that either tells a story or makes an argument about your chosen place. Each individual photo should be interesting on its own while also working with your other photos and captions to achieve your purpose. Refer to pages 77-85 in *The Bedford Book of Genres* to learn more about photo essays. We will discuss the genres of photo essays and artist statements in class and study several models. This assignment contains multiple steps:

- Set up Instagram account
 - You do not need to use your personal Instagram account for this assignment. I'd suggest setting up a secondary account, perhaps using your Emory email.
- Shoot, edit, and post at least 20 photos. Here are some questions you might want to consider in your photography:
 - How will you frame your shots? Are there interesting or unusual angles that would change the viewer's perspective?
 - Will you use filters on your photos? You are welcome to use any photo altering apps available to you.
 - Consider the color scheme. How would the photos change if they were in black and white or highly saturated colors?
 - Think about how you can use light and shadow in your photos to create different effects.
- Caption photos
- Consider tagging these photos with a location
- Create a hashtag about your chosen place and use it to label each of your photos
- Add #eng101travel to your post
- Post a 500-word Artist Statement to your website. Think of this as you would an introduction to a written essay and discuss the following:
 - What is the argument or story of your photo essay?
 - How do your photos work to prove your argument or tell a story?
 - Describe the hashtag you created for your place. Why did you choose this hashtag and how does it fit into your essay?
 - What are the major themes of your photo essay?
 - What is the goal of your photo essay?
 - Identify the rhetorical situation of your photo essay:
 - Is there any relevant background information about you, the **author**?
 - Who do you imagine would be the ideal **audience** for this project?
 - What is the **purpose** of this photo essay, beyond completing this assignment?

Scaffolding & Student Support

- ❖ Rental equipment
- ❖ Models
- ❖ Drafting: shot list
- ❖ Editing: photo lab
- ❖ Workshop
- ❖ Reflection

Example Student Work

- Stirling

- Brooke

Thank you!

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