

Developing a Photographic Essay - Making a Public Statement About a Social Problem or Issue

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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<https://trails.asanet.org/article/view/developing-a-photographic-essay-making-a-public>.

Abstract

Each student will develop a photographic essay of a social problem important to the student (a personal, reflective, integrative public statement about a social problem). Essay development enables students to demonstrate the intersection of personal problems and public structural contexts (C.W. Mills 1959 - "Sociological Imagination"), then propose resolutions to those problems. Using five to eight photographs the essay will reflect the social problem under consideration (first image), demonstrate the extent of the problem/issue (intermediary images), and provide a statement of individual and societal resolution (last two images). Photos must be presented and framed in such a way that they "read" like an essay. Sample distinguished projects are attached for viewing.

Details

Subject Areas: Introduction to Sociology/Social Problems

Resource Types: Assessment

Class Levels: Any Level

Class Sizes: Any

Usage Notes

Photo essays are developed outside of the classroom. In-class "Gallery Walk" estimated time: 20 minutes. Selected essays for voluntary in-class presentation estimated time: 30 minutes. Recommendation: have students discuss the "topic" with the instructor. Ex: "poverty" is too broad; encourage student to focus on a particular area of "poverty". Internet image downloads are permitted but must not violate copyright laws. Sources must be cited.

Learning Goals and Assessments

LEARNING GOALS

... to develop, strengthen and apply the student's sociological imagination to a social problem and/or issue

Objective-1: using 5-8 photographs the essay will (1) reflect the social problem under consideration (first image), (2) demonstrate the extent of the problem (intermediary images), and (3) provide a statement of resolution (last two images).

Objective-2 ... to demonstrate the extent to which students can use the sociological perspective to understand the relationship between personal problems and social issues (C.W.Mills 1959) a reflection component is included.

ASSESSMENTS

Objective-1: an assessment rubric has been developed to systematically evaluate photo essays with expected success rates exceeding 70 percent.

Objective-2 selected reflection questions are included with expected success rates exceeding 70 percent.

Resource Files

DOCX