

Everything I know about photography

- A photo is worth a thousand words, if it has the right ten with it.
- Get closer, then get closer again. Crop with your feet.
- News is about people, but not the backs of people
- Know what you're making a photo of and why you're making it.
- Don't jiggle or shake. Use these cheap tricks to avoid blur.
 - Use a fast enough shutter speed $1/\text{lens focal length}$ is a good place to start.
 - Brace on something. I use my bag a lot. Use whatever you can find.
 - S q u e e z e the release, don't punch it.
 - Be extra careful with long lenses and close up photos.
- Check the size of what you're shooting by putting the main object in the corner of the frame.
- Look around the edges of the viewfinder.
- Think "Flat."
- Remember, the camera can shoot verticals if you turn it.
- Sometimes eye level isn't the best point of view.
- Shoot lots now. Edit later
- The best photos are made when you should be at home in bed.

In class assignment

Each student will practice “voices” on the other group members.

Here’s what to do:

- Review these how-to pages
- As a group, come up with a voices question.

One person is the “victim”. One the reporter. One the photographer

Take turns until each group member has played each role.

- Photographer: Make voices style photo
- Reporter: Ask the question, record the answer, get the name.
Write an ID description of the person as well.
- “Victim:” Just be yourself

Show your results to Curtis.

We won’t use these as voices in the paper, but we will use the photos to create press passes and as column head photos for students who write for the paper. So don’t make a goofy face!

Assignment

Using your iPhone or DSLR, create an LMC Experience useable voices feature with 6 people. Have your question approved by the Perspectives editor before you shoot it. It should be a time-less question. You may work in teams of 2. We’ll edit these next Tuesday

What is Voices?

Voices is designed to give members of the LMC community an opportunity to offer their thoughts on serious subjects that are likely to be of interest and importance to the community -- major occurrences in either national, state, world or campus news -- or on whimsical subjects of a fun nature.

How to approach Voices and who to ask

Whether or not you are asking a serious question, it is important to get a variety of opinions on the topic.

In a similar vein, those answering the Voices question should be a mix of ages and races, and include an equal number of men and women.

You can ask faculty to respond to a Voices question, but it is most appropriate for them to be included when their expertise can lend a fuller perspective than students alone can provide. In most cases, limit faculty participation in a particular Voices column to two -- unless the question is de-

signed to get responses solely from faculty, as in "What is the best excuse you ever received from a student?"

Avoid getting Voices responses from the same people over and over again. Ideally, no one should appear in the Voices column twice in one semester.

How to shoot Voices

If possible, it's a good idea to shoot voices as a team of two. It helps things go more smoothly and may not seem as tedious. Some tips:

Let people know that you are with the paper when you approach them to do Voices, and be prepared to familiarize them with the newspaper and/or with the Voices column itself. It can come in handy to have a copy of the paper with you as this speeds up that process.

Expect more complicated Voices questions to be a little harder to get answers to. Be prepared to explain the question, and also remember to ask **why** if you get a yes or no answer. However, bear in mind there is not that much space for an answer — usually only a sentence or three.

Make sure each person you approach knows that you will be taking their picture because that is the most common problem with Voices: often people are willing to answer the Voices question, but might not want their picture in the paper with it. The answer is unusable without a picture, so it is important to make sure at the outset that Voices participants understand their photos will be taken and published in the newspaper.

If you are photographing a person taller than you, ask them to sit, or stand on something. Be at eye level or slightly higher.

To avoid having your photos look like police mugs shots, have the person turn away from you slightly and look back at you.

Pay attention to the lighting conditions. If there is more light behind the person than there is in front, then the photo will be backlit. Pictures that are backlit will be too dark and won't look very good in print.

Make sure you get the name of the Voices participant. Read the spelling back to make sure it's right! Write down a description of them so the answer can be matched with the photograph by the photo editor. Don't write anything in the description you wouldn't want them to see. ("Stupid looking guy with bad hair" would be a really bad thing to write.

It is okay to try to persuade people who are at first reluctant to participate in Voices, but be sensitive. They are not required to answer by any means, so be nice and reassuring. It is a good idea to show them that they are doing you a favor and that you really appreciate it. Under no circumstances should the people you ask ever feel as if you badgered them for a response. Always remember your manners -- please, thank you, all that jazz -- because as much as you don't enjoy

being pestered about things they don't either. So persuade, cajole a little, but don't be pushy. You won't be doing yourself, the paper or them any favors.

When trying to find people to answer the Voices question, it helps to wander around campus. Do not go into classrooms that are in session. But the cafeteria, the area outside the cafeteria, the music area, hallways, and LRC 3 can be good places to look for respondents. In general, look for people who are not too busy. If people seem busy, ask if they can spare a few minutes, but do not press them if they are doing something for another class or say they have to be somewhere.

How to frame Voices questions

Although there are two approaches to Voices, there should be fewer whimsical questions, and you should avoid two fun ones in a row.

Also, avoid questions that can be answered in a single word.

Sample serious question: "*Why do you think some students cheat?*"

Sample whimsical question: "*If you could be a member of the opposite sex for a day, what would you do?*"

Photojournalism Assignment — Instagram

First, read the first link in the story at

www.metafilter.com/147325/InstaEssays. Then check out a couple of the links in the post.

You going to **create a free Instagram account and post at least TWO photojournalism photos to it.**

1. Download the free app “Instagram” to your phone.
2. Create an account for yourself
3. You may use the Instagram camera function, or better yet, use you photo camera, then pick the photo you like. Just remember that your photo will be square.
4. Pick a filter, or no filter. Note that you can “tone down” and filter you choose. You can also click the “tools” icon and make your own adjustments including tilt-shift, straighten and vignette.
5. Add our class hashtag, #LMCPJ16
6. What should you shoot?

Let’s try to tell a story, like the people in the our reading from the Metafilter link (above) did. Make a photo of someone, and tell a story about them in the caption. Think “Humans of New York” Make your photo and add a long paragraph or two that helps your photo tell its story

Answer these questions:

Do you think Instagram is an appropriate tool for photojournalists? Instagram?

Do you like any of the filters?

Is there a feature in Instagram you appreciate more than others?

Bonus if you attempt to use any other Instagram-related apps, or do several and embed them in a web page or use Storify

Due 3-10

Reminders

General News due 3-8

Short photo story due 3-15

Photojournalism/Documentary photography

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How to Write a Photo Caption

The purpose of a caption is to give viewers information and entice them to learn more about the subject and read the article.

The Associated Press caption style is a good way to get clear and complete captions.

The first sentence describes what the photo shows, in present tense and states where and when the photo was made. The day and date must be included in all captions. The second sentence of the caption gives the background on the event or describes why the photo is significant. Whenever possible try to keep the caption to no more than two concise sentences while including all the relevant information.

Use the 5Ws and H

Who? Who is in the picture? Use full names, ages, occupation and any other pertinent info of anyone in the photograph who is identifiable. If they represent an organization, get the name of their organization and their title. Check the spellings with the individual, don't assume they spell their name a certain way. Identify people from left to right (L to R.) If you have a large crowd, it is not necessary or always possible to get the names of all individuals. You still need to identify who the people in the group are such as football fans, Occupy protestors, etc. If you have 5 people or less, you must get all of their full names.

What? What is happening in the picture. Be specific. Don't assume the reader can tell. This should be an action verb.

Where? Where did it happen? Give a specific location, city and state. You can include more details such as a building, classroom, campus, etc.

When? When did it happen? Use the day and date, including the year. Time of day is only included if it is relevant to the story. Note that AP requires the day, date **and year**.

Why? Include any further information that will explain why something is happening. This can also be included as a second sentence, giving an interesting fact.

How? This could be how much (costs, damages, profits, etc.) or how many (attendance, injuries, etc.) or how something came about.

Put your photo credit (your name) at the end of the caption.

Tips

The more information, the better, copy editors can always shorten it. Captions should be written as mini news stories. Don't editorialize! Stick to the facts. Caption writing should be clear, concise and precise. Write what the photo shows and what you know. When possible, use a quote from a subject. Their voice adds more to the story. You may want to explain if you used a certain camera technique, or point out small details the viewer may overlook. Caption style can vary with different publications. Try to anticipate what information an editor or reader will need. Make sure to get handouts, press packets, rosters, game stats or other information that will give you the facts you need to write your captions. Take detailed notes, don't rely on remembering the info later. Get the information yourself, don't rely on the reporter or a publicist. Remember, you are a photojournalist.

Here's a page from the AP stylebook.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Nearly all AP captions follow a simple formula:

- The first sentence of the caption should follow this structure; the first clause should describe who is in the photograph and what is going on within the photo in the present tense followed by the city and state where the image was made, following AP style for the city and state as appropriate. Captions must give attribution for action not seen (e.g. the scene of accident where more than 10 died, according to police). The last portion of the first sentence should be the date, including the day of the week if the photograph was made within the past two weeks, and preceded by a comma. (e.g., Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008). These three elements are **MANDATORY** and no caption is complete without all of them. Names should always be listed in order, left to right, unless it is impossible for the caption to read normally otherwise. With multiple people identified within the caption, enough representations to placement are necessary that there is no confusion for who is who.

- The second sentence of the caption is used to give context to the news event or describes why the photo is significant. While a second sentence can be illuminating, it also has the potential to create problems and is often where errors can be found. A photo caption's second sentence should be carefully crafted to include information from the text wire story when appropriate or additional relevant observations from the photographer on scene. There may be some instances when a second sentence is not needed. Many sports photos taken during a game or match, for example, do not require a second sentence; nor do photos from some ongoing news events. Most daily pictures of the president do not need a second sentence either.

- Whenever possible, try to keep captions to no more than two concise sentences, while including the relevant information. Try to anticipate what information the reader will need. Any non-publishable information in the body of the caption should be set off by dual asterisks, (**) both before and after the highlighted information.

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE STANDARD AP CAPTION:

Democratic presidential hopeful U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., delivers his policy on Iraq speech, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007, in Clinton, Iowa. Obama called for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. combat brigades from Iraq, with the pullout being completed by the end of next year. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)