

ENG 208 – Introduction to Digital Journalism
Dragan

Blog Assignment #2 – Responding to a Digital Slideshow or Photo Essay

DUE DATE: THU. OCT. 29th, 2020

Description

Our second assignment is to respond to an example of digital journalism that uses a slideshow or photo essay. Some slideshows will actually be videos: they use still images with captions and music that can be played like videos. Photo essays typically display photos placed alongside written text. A 'typical' photo essay is one that presents a series of images with captions that users can navigate – in 'lean in' mode, so they can browse and explore at their own pace.

As before, you should use our collection of 'curated' links of digital journalism for this assignment. PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE AMBITIOUS, CURATED EXAMPLES, not a randomly chosen story online. Make sure your chosen story has multiple photos – presented alongside text or in an interactive slideshow.

1) ****Browse** to eng208.publishproject.com, then click on the **Digital Journalism Links** menu option on the left. -OR-

****Just use the direct link:**

djlinks.publishproject.com

2) **Important!** Click on the **Slideshows & Photo Essays tab**. You will see this screen (detail):

Journalism Resources	Slideshows / Photo Essays
☆ Slideshows & Photo Essays	
• Incredibly Close (and Extremely Loud) (NYT) ★	
• An Elegy to India's Vanishing Cinemas (NYT)	
• An Iranian Photographer's Unflinching Look at His Country's Revolution (NYT)	
• New York Times -- Lens (Award-Winning Photojournalism) ★	
• Heavy Rains Leave the Midwest Under Water (NY Post)	
• Students Take to the Streets to Demand Gun Control (NY Post)	
• The Annual Clown Memorial Service (NY Post)	
• More Images from Inside North Korea (WaPo) ★	
• Stunning Photos Show What America Looked Like During the Great Depression (WaPo)	
• Exploring Antarctica (WaPo)	
• WaPo's Flash-Based 'Camera Works' ca. 2005 (Day in Photos) ???	
• Inside New York's Oldest Store in Chinatown (The Guardian) ★	
• The Bird Market of Kabul (The Guardian)	
• Mush! Training for the the Can-Am Dog Sled Race (The Guardian)	
• The Guardian -- In Pictures (Collection of Photojournalism) ★	
• Narrative.ly -- Photo Essays ★	

Please don't just pick the first thing you see – or the examples from class. Use this time to explore what's out there in our curated examples. (There are actually many links on several of the photo essay 'portals,' for example on *The New York Times* Lens site or on the *Narrative.ly* page.) Remember: digital journalism doesn't come in a textbook – it's out there 'live' and you need to spend some time digging around and exploring some of it. *If you cut corners and don't do this, you won't know what's out there.*

3) Browse these links for 45 to 60 minutes. Take notes on what you like, what you don't, which images or slideshow features are effective (or not). Do some real thinking.

4) Now, choose one link (on a specific slideshow or photo essay) and write on it for this blog for a more in-depth response.

*****Write a 400 to 500-word post on your WordPress blog on the prompt below:**

INTRO.

1) **First, describe the slideshow / photo essay for us.** What is about? What is the title, the photographer(s), creators and online publisher. Give use about 100 to 125 words of description. Show us that you've spent time exploring this slideshow / photo essay in a short paragraph with some specifics. (Be sure to give us the link and post that here.)

DIGITAL PHOTOS

2) **What is effective about the digital photos (images)?** Are these photos shot in color or B&W? Do they seem very 'realistic,' 'photojournalistic' or something else? (What makes these images original?) Are they perhaps more 'stylized' somehow (with strong choices – in composition, lighting, color, focus, etc. – made by the photographer). What 'grabs' the viewer about the

photographic style? (Are there any 'subtext' here in an image or two that adds meaning to the images in the way they are shot versus what's represented in the frame? Is this effective?)

CAPTIONS / WORDS

3) **Next, comment on the captions and / or the written copy that accompanies these images.** What did you learn by reading the written copy? Do they fit the photos? What do they add to the slideshow / photo essay? Does the written copy somehow create a story or 'hook' for the reader?

INTERACTIVITY / HOW IT WORKS

4) **Does this slideshow offer a chance for the user to interact with the slides** (controlling the presentation of images) or is it a photo essay where we read text alongside the images? (Maybe it's a slideshow that is packaged up as a video.) **Try to give us a sense of how this 'artifact' works** – does it use HTML, Flash or something else? (We will look at how to do this in class using the 'View Source' option in your web browser.) **What tools (probably) could be used to make this slideshow based on its format?** (For example, a video could be made with Premiere Pro.)

SUMMING UP

5) **Finally, what is original, effective or appealing about your digital photo 'artifact'?** Why did you choose it? As a model or example to follow (or to be inspired by), what would you like to emulate in your own work?

***Some Hints:

- Aim to write clearly, but quickly. Revise what you write before you post. Your post should conform to Standard English (and AP Style) Please complete sentences and paragraphs / chunks that are clear and grammatically correct.
- Remember, you can edit and improve your post by editing it in WordPress. Preview before you post. *Use the edit / preview / post workflow in WP.*
- **Important!!**

Label this post clearly as "Blog Assignment #2" in a title and tags (try to include the assignment number in the title) so the rest of the class – including your instructor – can find it easily.

Remember to tag all your critical thinking blog posts using "Blog Asg 2", "ENG 208" and a few words that describe your post. (Tagging your posts will help readers find your content.)