

Photojournalism Exercise Step-by-step Guide

adapted from guide by Phillip Long & Dan Gilbert and the Educause Learning Spaces Constituency Group

Introduction

The following exercise helps provide a structured and creative mechanism to develop a collection of images, structured descriptions of those images, folksonomy tags to identify them, and entry into an online collection for collective use. The tool used in the exercise, Flickr, is great for exploring photos by photographer, tag, time, text and group, and now is also useful for exploring photos by place using geo-location that allows location of images geographically based on where the images were taken.

Methodology – Student Photojournalist Overview

- Each photojournalist should have a digital camera to take pictures as indicated by their course assignment.
- When finished, ask the photojournalists to create an account and upload the images to the Flickr photosharing service (<http://www.flickr.com/>).
- As each image is uploaded, students can enter answers to assignment questions in the description field associated with each uploaded image and “tag” the photos (with a tags identified by the instructor to serve as the starting point). Other tags should also be added by students as part of the assignment to give the ability to develop useful cross-sections of the collection. These can include, but are not limited to, descriptors of photo type, who took the picture, and any feature in the photo that most represents why the picture was taken.
- After images are uploaded to their individual account, they are moved to the instructors group. Sort and explore photos in the group for relevance to instructional assignment.

Step-by-Step Guidelines

1) Taking the Photos

Choose a resolution (pixel density) to be no more than 2,048 x 1,536 - 3mp (3,145,728 pixels, or roughly 3.2 MP). That’s big enough for a good quality 8x10 image, should you wish to print any. For the web, adjust your camera when taking the picture to bring the pixel density down. Based on the intent of the final output, instructors should indicate to students the resolution needed so that there will be uniformity in the final image collection, as well as keep it from getting overwhelmed by very large images (contact Learning Technologies if assistance is needed with this).

Image hint: Depending on the project, instructors may want to provide guidance to students about framing of images so that similar views are taken.

In general, try to capture images that show the features of note in context. However, please note the advice about getting releases where there are clearly recognizable people in your picture if you can. A simple release form template is included at the end of this set of instructions.

Follow the directions on the NikonCoolPix Quick Start Guide to transfer your pictures to a computer or removable media (i.e. flash drive).

2) Flickr Uploading

Instructor and students will need a Flickr account. A basic account is free; sign up by connecting to the Flickr home page at <http://www.flickr.com>. Once an account has been established, images will be uploaded from your computer to your Flickr account and tagged so that they can later be sorted by tags identified by the instructor.

a. Upload the images:

There are three ways to do this –

- by the Flickr web form (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/upload/>) ;
- by email (<http://www.flickr.com/account/uploadbyemail/>) ;
- or using an upload tool (<http://www.flickr.com/tools/>)

b. Add tags to the images:

- Add them in the box when prompted while uploading. Use as many of the tags that make sense, but be sure to include tags specified for this project by the instructor.
- Add a brief description of the photo, answering assignment questions if needed.

Note: When uploading you can add one or more tags to the images. Be careful, in one upload session your tags will apply to the batch of photos uploaded together. Note you can always add tags individually to your images once you have them uploaded into your account.

3) Creating a Flickr group (for instructors)

The instructor can create a group in Flickr so that all student work can be viewed and sorted in one location. Once the group is created, Flickr can send an invitation to students with an URL that they can use to get to your group.

- From your Home page in Flickr, click on Groups from the menu on top of the page.
- Click on “create your own group” and follow the directions to name your group, you will be identified as the Admin for the group.
- Once the group is created, click on Administration from the menu on the groups’ main web page and then on “Flickr web address” under “About my group”. You can create an **alias** for your group so you can direct people to an URL, that will look like <http://www.flickr.com/groups/alias/>.
- Go back to the groups’ main web page, click on the “Invite” button from the menu and choose “invite a new person to Flickr”. Scroll down the page and look for the “go advanced...” link to bring up a box in which you can add a list of e-mail addresses.
- Enter student e-mail addresses, and change the body of the e-mail message at right to include the URL for this group and add instructional information as needed and click Send.

Emerging Technologies

- Students will receive an invitation to join your group in Flickr.

4) Putting your images in a group (students)

The instructor will create a group in Flickr so that all student work can be viewed and sorted in one location. Once the group is created, Flickr will send you an invitation to join the group. Accept this invitation by following the link and signing in to become a member.

To add your images to your instructors group, click to open any image from your Photostream visible on your Home page. Click on the “Send to group” button (on menu above the image), and send the image to any group that you are a member of.

Click on the group URL included in the e-mail from your instructor to view the group.

5) Geo-locating

The Flickr web site has a video that describes this called [Great Shot – where’d you take that?](#) The brief instructions are:

- From your Flickr Home page, click Organize.
- In the Organize view, click Map
- Drag your photo(s) directly from your photostream on the map that appears. There is a “Find a Location” search box in the upper right corner to help you quickly navigate to a specific location.
- That’s it – You’re Done!

Appendix 1

MODEL PHOTO RELEASE

In exchange for consideration received, I hereby give permission to [your name here] to use my name and photographic likeness in all forms and media for advertising, trade, and any other lawful purposes.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

If Model is under 18: I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of the individual named above, I have read this release and approve of its terms.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date: