

The Photo Essay

The Assignment

Prepare a Photo Essay that reflects upon your memories or experiences with food, family, and traditions.

Purpose of the Assignment

This assignment launches our semester-long conversation about *food* and its various impacts upon our personal lives, health, cultures, politics, societies, economies, and the natural world.

Objectives of the Assignment

By the end of this assignment, you will have

- evaluated sample photo essays and the essential elements of effective photo essay design
- defined a theme for your photo essay
- written a paragraph and brief captions that meet good standards of writing and include the necessary components of the assignment
- selected images or photographs that appropriately connect to your photo essay's theme
- practiced the act of citation for materials that come from other sources.

Plan for Writing

1. Identify the topic and the theme of your photo essay. The photo essay should develop a personal narrative that paints a picture of food cultures, traditions, or memories that are relevant to *you*.
2. Select **6 – 10** photographs or images to include in your photo essay. These photos or images may be your own, or copied from internet sources. If you are copying from external sources, be sure to cite the source by providing the web address. Although simply providing the web **address is not the correct citation form**, it will be accepted in this assignment because we have not yet launched a full discussion about source citations.
3. Select the application that you will use to create the essay. You may create your essay in Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, or other similar software. If you experience challenges, consult with me right away.
4. In an introductory paragraph, provide background about the selected food culture, details about what makes this food culture unique, and a description of why this food culture is relevant to you personally. Your introduction should prepare your audience for the images that are to follow.
5. Following the introductory paragraph, include the photographs or images, displaying them as artistically and as well as you can.
6. Provide one- or two-sentence captions for each of your photos. The captions should explain the image and connect it to your essay's theme.

Your Audience

Your classmates are your audience. I will post your photo essays in Blackboard for others to read and enjoy. Be mindful of your audience as you develop your project.

Connection to Course Objectives

By effectively completing this assignment, you will demonstrate competencies in the following learning objectives for our course; you will have

- Analyzed and met the needs and expectations of instructors, students, and other audiences.
- Delivered a text appropriately in digital and visual modes so as to meet audience expectations and needs.
- Used available electronic environments for drafting, revising, reviewing, editing and submitting texts.
- Disseminated a text in an electronic form.

Assignment Rubric

Use this rubric to evaluate your own project prior to its submission.

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (10 pts for each criteria)	Meets Expectations (8 pts for each criteria)	Does Not Meet Expectations (6 pts for each criteria)	Unacceptable (0 pts for each criteria)
Introductory Paragraph	The introduction to the essay is engaging, well-developed, and free of writing errors. It includes all of the required elements outlined in the assignment.	The introductory paragraph is well-developed and free of writing errors. It includes all of the required elements outlined in the assignment.	The introductory paragraph contains writing errors or is underdeveloped and insufficient.	No introductory paragraph is included.
Images & Image Quality	The required number of images is included. The images are clear, interesting, connect to the theme of the essay, and are arranged in a visually appealing manner.	The required number of images is included. The images are clear, interesting, and connect to the theme of the essay.	The images are poor in quality, or do not connect to the theme of the essay; or, the essay fails to meet the required number of images	No images are included.

Captions	All of the captions provide good details about the images. The captions are interesting and engaging to the audience.	All of the captions provide good details about the images.	Some of the captions provide insufficient details about the images.	Some or all of the images are missing captions.
Theme	The theme of the photo essay emerges through very compelling and interesting connections among the images.	The theme of the photo essay emerges through interesting connections among the images.	The theme of the photo essay emerges slightly through a loose connection among the photos.	The photo essay does not have an apparent theme.
Citations	All images from outside sources are appropriately cited, and the citations do not interfere with the quality of the layout and design.	All images from outside sources are appropriately cited, and most of the citations do not interfere with the quality of the layout and design.	Some of the images are missing citations, or the citations interfere with the quality of the layout and design.	No citations are provided for images from outside sources.

Grading Scale

50 – 45 pts = A

34 – 30 pts = D

44 – 40 pts = B

29 and below = F

39 – 35 pts = C

Due Date

Submit your photo essay by **Sunday, June 3**, to receive full credit.

Late submissions will be accepted until **Tuesday, June 5**. Late submissions will receive a **5 point deduction from the overall score. No submissions will be accepted beyond the final, late submission deadline.**