

# photo–essay

## Definition of PHOTO–ESSAY

: A **photo-essay** (or photographic **essay**) is a set or series of photographs that are intended to tell a story or evoke a series of emotions in the viewer. A **photo essay** will often show **pictures** in deep emotional stages.

: A group of photographs (as in a book or magazine) arranged to explore a theme or tell a story

## First Known Use of PHOTO–ESSAY

1944 W. Eugene Smith

William Eugene Smith (December 30, 1918 – October 15, 1978), was an American photojournalist, renowned for the dedication he devoted to his projects and his uncompromising professional and ethical standards. Smith developed the photo essay into a sophisticated visual form. His most famous studies included brutally vivid World War II photographs, the clinic of Dr. Schweitzer in French Equatorial Africa, the city of Pittsburgh, the dedication of an American country doctor and a nurse midwife, and the pollution which damaged the health of the residents of Minamata in Japan.

## Legacy

Summarizing Smith's achievements, Ben Maddow wrote that Smith claimed that his vocation was "to do nothing less than record, by word and photograph, the human condition." No one could really succeed at such a job: yet Smith almost did. During his relatively brief and often painful life, he created at least fifty images so powerful that they have changed the perception of our history.

Smith was arguably the originator and certainly the master of the photo-essay. In addition to *Pittsburgh*, these works include *Nurse Midwife*, *Minamata*, *Spanish Village*, *Country Doctor*, and *Albert Schweitzer–A Man of Mercy*.

## W Eugene Smith

## LIFE - Nurse Midwife - 1951

W Eugene Smith documents the work of nurse midwife Maude Callen in Pineville, South Carolina. Maude covered over 4,000 miles a month caring for this community, available day and night. Smith's dedication to his subject even led him to give blood to a desperately ill child. The impact of the photo-essay led Life magazine's readership to donate \$29,000 towards the building of a clinic in 1953.





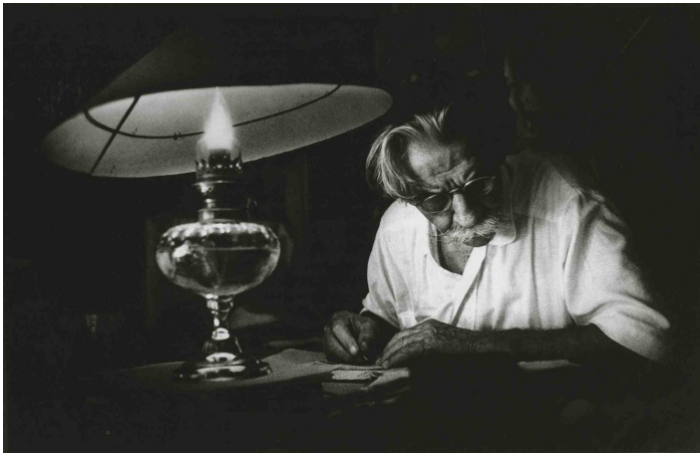
Other works by W. Eugene Smith



Tomoko Uemura in Her Bath

A Walk to the Paradise Garden

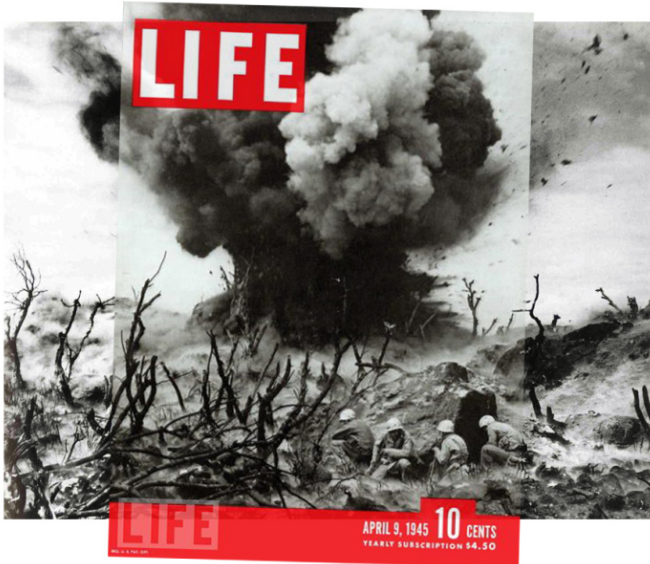




Albert Schweitzer in Lambaréné



Dewey Defeats Truman



Iwo Jima: "Sticks and Stones, Bits of Human Bones"

# photo-essay project

Topics to choose from:

**The Struggle is Real.**

**Why I did It.**

**Changes in My Language. (Losing my first, gaining a second, evolving...)**

**If Your Dreams Do Not Scare You, They Are Not Big Enough.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ is the new \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Why Are You Here and Not Somewhere Else?**

**Silence Remains a Form of Speech.**

**How Did You Get Caught?**

**Each student's photo-essay** will include at least 15 photographs. Students are welcome to choose more than one prompt to fulfill this requirement; however, the presentation must not be random. There should be a connection from topic to topic. The goal here is to be creative and also intentional in the photographs you are choosing to take and present.

**Each student's photo-essay** must have at least one example of each of the Elements of Design and/or Photoshop lessons that we have covered thus far in a fashion that is creative and involves critical thought. It is not acceptable to completely alter any image or change the facts of the image, but enhancing it (such as making it clearer, balancing colors/values...) is acceptable.

**Each student's photo-essay** must be composed into a PowerPoint or Prezi (or the like) presentation that serves as the visual story being told. Each image should include some text (such as a title, who it is of, or place taken...) that is a form of factual, guiding information but not be text heavy.

75 TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: Components:

Presentation – Grading Rubric (Self) – Grading Rubric (Teacher) – TAG Critique

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/Period: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ /15 pts

# photo-essay – Grading Rubric – Self-Assessment

1 = Beginner, 2 = Mastery Level, 3 = Exemplary

<b>Concerns</b> <i>Areas that Need Work</i>	<b>Criteria</b> <i>Standards for This Performance</i>	<b>Advanced</b> <i>Evidence of Exceeding Standards</i>
	<b>Criteria #1:</b> All 15 photographs are included in final presentation	
	<b>Criteria #2:</b> All photographs relate to the topic(s) chosen	
	<b>Criteria #3:</b> Each image presented has guiding information	
	<b>Criteria #4:</b> All images are factual – in composition, editing, and text	
	<b>Criteria #5:</b> Each image is composed using either an Elements of Design and/or Photoshop technique	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 point</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ pts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2 points</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ pts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3 points</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ pts</p>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/Period: \_\_\_\_\_ /15 pts

# photo-essay – Grading Rubric – Teacher

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<b>Concerns</b> <i>Areas that Need Work</i>	<b>Criteria</b> <i>Standards for This Performance</i>	<b>Advanced</b> <i>Evidence of Exceeding Standards</i>
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<b>1 point</b>	<b>2 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>
<b>Concerns</b> <i>Areas that Need Work</i>	<b>Criteria</b> <i>Standards for This Performance</i>	<b>Advanced</b> <i>Evidence of Exceeding Standards</i>
	<b>Criteria #1:</b> Presented	

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Presenter Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Photos relating to topic(s)  
\_\_\_ Strong \_\_\_ So-So  
**T:** Tell something you like:  
  
  
  
  
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