

Project 2: The Decisive Moment

**Photo 2. Due March 31 for critique.**

**Purpose:** to work with the same subject over time and find multiple ways to demonstrate narrative and perspective within your images

**Objective:** to develop a strong subject matter and enhance compositional and technical ability.

In 1952, Henri Cartier-Bresson wrote, "The picture story involves a joint operation of the brain, the eye, and the heart. The objective of this operation is to depict the content of some event which is in the process of unfolding, and to communicate impressions".

- In this assignment, you will utilize a 35mm camera to capture one event or situation that is naturally occurring or existing.
- Expose a minimum of two rolls of black and white negative film and one roll of color negative film.
- Choose a situation / scenario that interests you and that you can work with over a period of time. Select the type of exposure you are looking for (and with consideration of atmosphere, light, and composition) and collect your images over an extended period of time. Go back to your place (situation / scenario) over time, to see (and record) how things change.
- Create a series of photographs that capture the essence of the occasions, place or situation that you choose to record.
- You are going to be looking for "decisive moments". Utilize your thoughts and emotions while in the scene as well as your eye to decide when you want to photograph. Be aware and stay alert. Look for information that supports the primary impression or message that depicts the scenarios/locations—something that might generate a narrative out of a single frame.
- Pay attention to composition and the relationship of your subject or object to its surroundings. Move around and photograph frequently. Think about how you can use aperture, shutter speed, and perspective to enhance your images.
- After you've processed your exposures, evaluate your contact sheets. Choose six images from the scenario (three black and white darkroom images and two color digital images) that portray your personal choice. Select the images that best depict what you have chosen to photograph and consider the most effective way to sequence and display images in appropriate manner that works within the context of subject matter.
- Type a paragraph about your results and assess your photographs. Refer back to the ***Decisive Moment*** article by Cartier-Bresson as needed for inspiration.

Materials:

- 2 rolls of black and white film (make sure you do not use black and white film that is C-41 processing) and 1 roll of color film (Kodak or Fuji)
  - You may use any Ilford or Kodak brand of black and white film.
- Enlarger Filters
- Negative sleeves
- Epson Enhanced Matte Paper or equivalent
- 8 x 10 RC paper
- 8.5 x 11 print sleeves

Due: a total of five prints (3 / 8x10 darkroom black and white; 2 / 8.5 x 11 digital color prints); contact sheets for black and white and index cards (prints) for color; and a paragraph explaining what you were trying to convey with your images.

Due date: March 31

PhotoTips:

\*\*\***Decisive Moment:** When content and composition come together to create a cohesive idea / expression

- move in close to subjects or objects
- look for facial expressions and gestures that convey meaning
- if shooting a landscape or objects, pay attention to perspective, horizon lines and quality of light
- pay attention to foreground and background –time of day and image content. What adds and what detracts from an image?
- Continuously be shooting. Do not hesitate!