Assignment: Feature / Photo Essay: Part 1: Research

Your main assignment in this module will be to create a feature-based photographic essay of 15-20 images describing a theme or documenting a story. Telling a comprehensive story photographically will be a main objective.

Any good project begins with research, so for this project, you will start your research by searching for and viewing photographic essays published online by news-based organizations (no Flickr, Instagram, or photo sharing sites).

You will present a published photographic essay to the class on Tuesday January 15 and lead a class discussion. Plan to spend about 3-4 minutes presenting your essay with around 5 minutes of group discussion to follow.

You do not have to turn in anything written for this part of the assignment although I strongly recommend that you have an outline to follow for your presentation and some notes on the essay.

Procedures:

Find a Photographic essay published on the web. It may or may not have a printed story to accompany it. (Suggested source: NY Times Multimedia section or Lens blog) The photographic essay MUST be the work of an individual photographer and also should not be a 'portfolio' or compilation of their work.

Save the essay (you may need to use screen grabs for the imagery) for offline viewing in class in case the link is deleted. Also save a copy of the printed story, if there is one. (Email me at wroussin@comm.msstate.edu with a link to your essay/story by Noon Tuesday January 15)

FIRST: View the images before reading the story. Write down your first impressions. Could you follow the story?

SECOND: Read the story – paying close attention as to how the story works with the imagery. Which is more prominent – the imagery or the story?

THIRD: View the images again. Analyze how well they fit together as a photo story and as individual images. Is there a good flow to the series? Are there any missing links/images? Analyze whether the images 'need' the text (if any) or if the text (if any) 'needs' the images – which is the more prominent area of information. What would you change, if anything, about the essay were you to have shot the series? Develop a strategy to present your found essay to the class.

Due:

Tuesday January 15