Welcome to the 2012 exhibition of World Press Photo.

This is now the 55th year that World Press Photo has organized an exhibition. The best press photos from the past year can be seen at the exhibition, and the winners have been selected by an independent jury. One of the winning photos is designated as the World Press Photo of the Year - this is the one considered to be the very best photo of the year.

The exhibition can be seen not only here, but at almost one hundred other locations all over the world as well. For example, the exhibition is also held in Paris and Seoul, Brazil and Moscow.

Enough said - time for the assignments! The questions can be answered in a group or alone. Fill in your answers on the dotted lines underneath the question. Your teacher might want to check your answers after your visit to World Press Photo.

Have fun!
Assignment 1: News

Press photos are different from commercial advertising photos or fine art photos. Press photos are about news. Everyone has their own idea about what news is. Two things are important for anyone working in media.

> News is something which hardly anyone knows yet, or has recently happened.
A bomb has exploded for example, or Michael Jackson is dead.

> News has great consequences for many people. A contagious disease can break out for example, or the banks can be financially challenged, so that people have less money in the end.

Go and look for this photo in the exhibition:

The photographer who took these pictures was sitting in a helicopter while the tsunami hit the coast of Japan. He directed his helicopter immediately to the disaster area in order to take these pictures.

Press photographers report on news, and must therefore always know what is going on around them.

This series is an example of 'hard news': something bad which has just happened, which hardly anyone knows yet.

> Name three things which show that the tsunami is still taking place?
1) ..............................................................
2) ..............................................................
3) ..............................................................

News has great consequences for many people. A contagious disease can break out for example, or the banks can be financially challenged, so that people have less money in the end.

An important task of news or press agencies is to inform photographers of news that is happening. They might also keep a close eye on the emergency services, because any large-scale activity mean there is a good chance of something interesting going on. Press photographers who work for a newspaper are also called by the editing staff: 'get straight to that crossroads, there's a house on fire!'.

Go and look for this photo in the exhibition:

After he landed at the airport he received a text message from the newspaper that there were shootings going on on the island of Utøya. He drove there together with a colleague, with whom he hired a boat to get closer to the island. When they arrived at the coast, they were confronted by around 25 bodies. There were no more shots to be heard. The shooter, Anders Breivik had already been arrested, and the police were searching for accomplices.

The newspaper next day featured a 25 page report, mainly with photos by this photographer. He was the only photographer with images of Utøya with the dead bodies. The parents of the children would prefer those images not to be shown.

> Why do you think that newspapers and World Press Photo show the images anyway?

> What are your views on these images being shown?

The photographer comes from Sweden. He had been sent to Norway by his newspaper to cover a bomb explosion in the capital of Oslo.

Take a good look at the series and read the caption. This series is another example of 'hard news': something bad which has just happened, which hardly anyone knows yet. This photographer got there quickly, almost as quickly as the police.

> How can you see in these photos that the drama has just happened?

> What are your views on these images being shown?
Take a good look at the series and read the caption.

*Did you know how many children are forced to marry so young around the world? What do you think of that?*

The photographer of this series is American. She chose the subject of child brides because she believes it is abnormal for children to have to marry. The photos are also slightly sad. The subject is not particularly special for a photographer from Yemen. He would probably not have chosen this subject. Or he would have taken happy photos of the wedding.

Although press photographers theoretically take neutral photos, you can sometimes see the photographer’s view of the world, in the photos. The photo then becomes subjective.

A good press photo catches the attention from the viewer. You think: ‘oh, how awful!’ Or: ‘oh, how beautiful!’ A good press photo also makes you think about things.

> *How does this series make you feel?*

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The series is about families in America who can no longer pay for their houses. They are therefore evicted, and the police can sometimes be involved.

> *Which of these six photos tells the story most effectively, in your opinion? Why?*

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A good press photo tells more than simply what is in the photo. A good photo is a symbol of a larger story. The photo of the polar bear on the rock shows that there is nowadays less ice for the polar bears and more problems finding food. The photo is therefore also about the effects of global warming. Or how about the photo of the young brides in Yemen? It symbolises all child brides around the world.

> *What is the larger story behind this series of photos?*

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**Assignment 2:** emotion

Look for the series containing this photo:

[Image]

Or: ‘oh, how beautiful!’ A good press photo also makes you think about things.

> *How does this series make you feel?*

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**Assignment 3:** a photo says more

Look for the series containing this photo:

[Image]

The series is about families in America who can no longer pay for their houses. They are therefore evicted, and the police can sometimes be involved.

> *Which of these six photos tells the story most effectively, in your opinion? Why?*

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A good press photo tells more than simply what is in the photo. A good photo is a symbol of a larger story. The photo of the polar bear on the rock shows that there is nowadays less ice for the polar bears and more problems finding food. The photo is therefore also about the effects of global warming. Or how about the photo of the young brides in Yemen? It symbolises all child brides around the world.
Press photographers tell stories which are not yet known, and which they believe to be important. And so press photographers teach us things about the world. They might be amusing stories, such as the series with the Russian singers, but more often they concern disturbing events. That is because press photographers believe it important that the world knows about the disturbing things, in the hope that the world can take action.

> Why do you think this photographer wanted to shoot this series?

Press photographers and journalists are free to write and show what they want to. It means that everyone in the world has the right to receive information and nobody can hide the information. That includes a president who wants to stop other people from discovering he has people shot dead.

People still sometimes try to stop photographers and journalists from doing their work however. Because they do not want the rest of the world to see what they are doing. They try to make life difficult for journalists and photographers. There are cases of journalists murdered and taken hostage each year.

The photographer who created this series, Rémi Ochlik, then travelled to Syria. The people there had rebelled against the president, in the same way as Libya had. The government made it hard for journalists to get into the country, and some were imprisoned and deported. Rémi Ochlik succeeded in getting into Syria.
He was killed on 22 February 2012 in a bombardment on a small centre where he was stationed at that time.

And so press photography can be a risky business. When you’re taking photos in a war zone, you run the risk of being hit. Press photographers risk their lives because they believe it important that other people in the world see what is happening there.

> Would you like to become a war photographer? Why or why not?

> Adam Pretty

> Koichi Tezuka

> Rémi Ochlik

> John Moore

> Brent Stirton

> Stephanie Sinclair

> Adam Pretty

> Samuel Aranda

> Koichi Tezuka

> Niclas Hammarström

> Stephanie Sinclair

> John Moore

> Brent Stirton

> Adam Pretty

See you next year!

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Photo credits:
> Samuel Aranda

Spain, for The New York Times
World Press Photo of the Year 2011

> Koichi Tezuka

Japan, Mainichi Shimbun
Spot News, 1st prize stories

> Niclas Hammarström

Sweden, for Aftonbladet
Spot News, 2nd prize stories

> Stephanie Sinclair

United States, VII Photo Agency for National Geographic magazine
Contemporary Issues, 1st prize stories

> John Moore

United States, Getty Images
People in the News, 2nd prize stories

> Brent Stirton

South Africa, Reportage by Getty Images for National Geographic magazine
Nature, 1st prize stories

> Rémi Ochlik

France, IP3 Press
General News, 1st prize stories

> Adam Pretty

Australia, Getty Images
Sports, 2nd prize stories

Colophon:
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