Welcome to the World Press Photo 13 exhibition. During this lesson you will learn what press photography is. And why so many bad-news stories are published in the newspapers. You will also find out the meaning of freedom of the press, and the rules that press photographers have to keep to.

This is the 56th time that World Press Photo has organised an exhibition and this one includes the best press photos taken in 2012. All the winners have been chosen by an independent jury and they have selected one photo to be World Press Photo of the Year: the best photo of all. The exhibition will not just be shown here, but also at some hundred other locations around the world. It will be held in Paris, Seoul, Rio de Janeiro and Moscow for example.

OK, so let's get on with the assignments! The lesson has two kinds of questions: standard questions and supplementary questions. Ask your teacher if you also have to answer the supplementary questions. You can work in a group or on your own. Write your answers on the dotted lines under the question. Your teacher may want to see them after your visit to the World Press Photo exhibition.

Enjoy!
Press photos are not like photos used in advertising or art. Press photos show us news. Everyone has their own ideas about what news is exactly, but two things are important.

- **News is something that hardly anyone knows about yet, and that has just happened.** For example, that there has been an earthquake, or that Osama Bin Laden has just been killed.
- **News is something that has a huge impact for a lot of people.** For example, an epidemic has broken out. Or the banks are in trouble, so that people may lose their savings.

Find the series that includes this photo:

![Image](image.png)

This series is an example of 'spot news': something terrible that has just happened, and hardly anybody knows anything about it.

- **The photo with smoke clearly shows news: the bomb has just exploded.** Look at the photo of the four dead children. How can you see that Israel’s military offensive has just happened, or is perhaps even still going on?

When something is out of the ordinary, it becomes news. If you’ve been friends with someone in your class for three years, then that’s normal. You don’t tell your parents every day that you’re friends. But if you have an argument with your friend, that’s something special. That’s something you’ll want to talk about. Because it’s different from what normally happens in your life. And also because it makes you angry or sad.

Most things that happen in the world are good. People live in peace with each other. Nature behaves as it should. And because that’s how it has always been, it’s not news. Everyone knows it already. But if someone is murdered, that’s out of the ordinary. Just like a war, a flood or an earthquake. These things are news, because they are different to what normally happens. Thank goodness.

Find the World Press Photo of the Year. Study it closely for a few minutes and read the caption.

- **Why do you think the photographer wanted to take a photo of these men at such an intimate moment?**

- **What do you feel when you look at this photo?**

- **It looks almost like the men are showing the children to the photographer. As if they’re saying: here they are, our dead children, take a good look! And maybe that’s how it is. Why would they do that?**

- **How can you tell that the young boy is in hospital?**

Children get our pity and sympathy much more easily than adults. Maybe that’s why so many photographs from disaster areas have children in them. Because the photographer can get the viewer’s attention by evoking emotions. And that’s how the photographer gets the chance to tell a story.

- **Supplementary Question**

This photo is good because it makes us feel so sorry for the boy. The fact that the boy is looking at his wounded hands in disbelief makes him so helpless. We can see that he knows that something terrible has happened but he can’t understand what exactly.
**Assignment 3: A PHOTO SAYS MORE**

Find the series that includes this photo:

Press photographers tell stories that not very many people have heard about, and that they consider to be important enough to show to other people. Press photographers therefore teach us something about the world. Sometimes this is about extraordinary things, like the photo about the bull racing in Indonesia. But often it will be about something unpleasant. This is because press photographers consider it important to record such things, so that the world will know that these nasty things happen. So that the world can do something about it.

**Study the photos for a few minutes and read the caption.**
What is the bigger story that these two photos are telling us?

A good press photo can tell us more than just what we see in the photo. A good photo can act as a symbol for a bigger story. The little boy in the previous photo symbolizes violence and the lack of hospitals in Aleppo. And the photo tells us something else: about the violence and the lack of hospitals in Aleppo.

**Study the photos for a few minutes and read the caption.**
What is the bigger story that these two photos are telling us?

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**Assignment 4: RULES FOR PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Find the series that includes this photo:

Press photographers have to stick to a few rules. A press photo has to show the truth. Although press photographers have to present their subjects in a neutral (objective) way, the photos will sometimes tell you how the photographer views the world. We say then that the photo is subjective.

**Study the series for a few minutes, and read the caption.**
What do you notice about the way the women in the photo are shown?

A press photographer must also take the people he photographs into account. Because you never know what serious consequences a photo can have if the person is recognised.

**Assignment 5: SUBJECTIVITY**

Find the series that includes this photo:

Press photographers tell stories that not very many people have heard about, and that they consider to be important enough to show to other people. Press photographers therefore teach us something about the world. Sometimes this is about extraordinary things, like the photo about the bull racing in Indonesia. But often it will be about something unpleasant. This is because press photographers consider it important to record such things, so that the world will know that these nasty things happen. So that the world can do something about it.

**Study the series for a few minutes, and read the caption.**
What do you notice about the way the women in the photo are shown?
How are the couples shown in the photo? Try to describe the emotions contained in the photos.

Do you think the photographer Maika Elan is in favour of gay marriage or not? Why do you think that?

Supplementary Question

A photo is just a snapshot of a particular moment. Someone who usually looks cheerful may look aggressively now and again. If you take a photo at such a moment, the viewer will see an aggressive person. Photographers have many ways of determining how you view the subject they portray in their photos. All the photos of these couples were taken in their own homes. Why do you think the photographer chose to do this?

What do you think the girls would think of being portrayed in such a way?

Assignment 6: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Take a good look at this series about female basketball players in Somalia.

Assignment 7: FORM

Find this photo:

Supplementary Question

Study the whole series, and read the caption. Can you tell from the photos that it’s dangerous for the girls to play basketball? If you can, how can you see that?

Supplementary Question

Sometimes, people want to stop photographers and journalists from doing their work. Because they don’t want the rest of the world to see what is happening. Every year journalists are murdered and taken hostage to stop them from showing the rest of the world the truth. Last year 89 journalists were murdered, in countries including Syria. The organisation called Reporters without Borders monitors the number of journalists that are killed. Press photography can therefore be a very dangerous occupation.

Do you think it is important that press photographers risk their lives to show the rest of the world the injustices that are taking place? Explain your answer.

Do you think it is important that press photographers risk their lives to show the rest of the world what is happening there.

But still, press photographers and other journalists continue to risk their lives, because they believe it’s important that other people in the world can see what is happening there.
If you take a photo of your own face, you’ll make sure it shows your best side, with a lock of hair covering that one little pimple. In the same way, press photographers are always trying to get the best angle, the perspective.

A press photographer is not allowed to manipulate. But he can choose to take a close-up or a total shot. Or to shoot in black and white or in colour. All these decisions determine how the event looks in the photo. Maybe the mother of that little boy in the hospital is standing next to him, but she’s not in the photo. Seeing her would make us feel less sorry for the boy.

So the photographer decides how you look at the event he has recorded.

► These photos were taken from above. How do you think the photographer managed to do that?

► Why do you think the photographer chose this perspective?

► Study the photo carefully for a few minutes. Which actions and choices did the photographer make to influence how you look at what is in the photo?

► Why did the photographer make those choices?

Supplementary Question

Choose one of these three photos:

If you have some time left: look at all the photos in the exhibition and choose your favourite. In the space below, write down why this would be your World Press Photo of the Year.