

Photojournalism or Hoax?

A picture is worth a thousand words. With the rise of social media, we are constantly surrounded by images that claim to document real events. Photojournalism has created photos with such strong impacts that they have changed laws, wars and the lives of millions.

However, history has shown that the line between truth and fiction is easily manipulated. In this assignment, you will take on the role of a photojournalist but with a twist. Instead of reporting a real event, you will create a **hoax image** that appears convincing while bending reality.

Task 1: Stage or Manipulate an Image

Create a photograph that tells a convincing but fictional story. You can:

- Stage a real-life scene that looks like newsworthy event
 - Use digital manipulation to enhance or alter your own preexisting image
 - Pair your own image with one sourced from online to alter the meaning
- Clarify which of the above options you chose.

Embed your photo you have taken

Task 2: Write a Short Article (150-250 words) Have fun with it!

Give your story an attention grabbing headline.

Write like a reporter covering the story connected to your image. Use a journalistic tone and word choice that feels authentic to a news article. Think about how reporters build credibility through details, quotes, and context.

Your article should be 150–250 words and push beyond what the photo shows on the surface. Share something not immediately obvious, complicate the meaning, or shift the viewer's interpretation in an unexpected way. Make it clear this is fictional, but present it as if it could appear in a real photojournalism report.

Curate your writing alongside your image to match their themes and concepts. Your words should frame, complicate, or redirect the viewer's experience of the photo. Have fun with this using humor or exaggeration or play it serious and build drama and suspense.

Task 3: Vote for the "Best" News Story

Respond to a classmate as your vote. Stating why you consider it the best. Funniest? Most believable? Most outrageous? Most realistic? The Post with the Most replies(votes) will win bragging rights!

Important: The quality of your picture is very important. Make sure it is visible but not so large that it overtakes the entire page. You don't need a fancy camera for this. Use whatever you have to take photos, make videos, and/or record audio. Take notes.

Don't neglect the written component. Even the most basic details like name, date, and location are critical to the photograph. Small bits of information have a large effect on the way a photograph is read.

AI Use Statement: You may not use generative AI on this assignment

Rubric link: **Photojournalism**

Example link: **Discussion 4 Example**

How to Embed a Photo link: **Embedding an Image in a Discussion Post**