

AP Photo Journal

“A notebook. Every photographer should have one.” – Ansel Adams

Your journal should be with you or readily available most or all of the time. I expect to see it out at class often. You may pay to print your photos for it here in the classroom or you could print at a local or online lab (CVS, Costco, Shutterfly, flickr, etc.)

Your journal should contain most or all of the following:

- Art and Photos that inspire you or give your ideas
- Your own images with your own commentary (*overall, most important*)
- **You must include the f/stop, shutter speed, and ISO of all your images you put in your journal (not including proof sheets)**

How to find the f/stop, shutter speed, and ISO of one of your digital photos?

For PCs: When you see the icon of your jpeg on your screen:

- right click on the icon and go to Properties.
- Click on the Details tab
- Scroll down to the Camera section and you will find the info there

In Photoshop:

- Click on File tab
- Scroll down to and select File Info
- Click on Camera Data tab. You will find the information there

- Your ideas for photo shoots (written or diagrammed)
- Description of steps you take in shooting (f-stop, shutter speed, aperture) and post-production (darkroom techniques, digital editing)
- Concentration idea development (i.e. brainstorming)
- Contextual research on your topic (history, sociology, literature, mathematics, science, etc. – see next page)
- Information and comments about gallery or museum visits
- Diagrams of your ideas
- Articles you find interesting
- Doodles
- Proof sheets (contact sheets)
- Handouts given in class
- Written responses to articles, quotations, and discussions in class or homework

What is Contextual Research?

Context – 2. the circumstances in which a particular event occurs (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)

- i. **Photographers/Artists with a Similar Concentration:** looking at other artists' work that is in the same field as your concentration.

You should include examples of their images in your journal and reflections on their work.

How does their work influence you as an artist?

Why do you like these photographers/artists' work?

I would say you should be researching at least 3 artists/photographers.

(For example, my current concentration is photographing my children and the trials and joys of parenting. I have been researching past photographers who photographed their children such as Ralph Eugene Meatyard. I am currently researching other current photographers who photograph children. I am also shooting several still lifes in relation to this concentration, so I research the Dutch Still Life painters and photographers who do still life photography.)

- ii. **Historical, Cultural, Political, Natural, Social, Scientific, Mathematical, Economic, Psychological, or ??????? Research on your Concentration**
Topic: Research one or several of these topics just listed in relation to your concentration.

You are looking to contextualize your work within the larger picture of humanity and nature.

(Going back my example of photographing my children, I am researching the psychological effects of parenting on parents – both positive and negative, the economic costs of parenting, and how different cultures approach the task of parenting.)

How will you be graded?

1. Depth of evaluation, analysis, reflection and thought (25%)
2. Quantity and quality – it is kind of a ratio: the journal can have beautifully rendered pages, but if it is high on layout but low on content or if there are very few of these scrapbook quality pages then it will affect the grade. Also, poorly printed images will affect the grade (25%)

Here is a general guideline for this ratio:

One super scrapbook page = two moderately embellished pages or three minimalist pages

One very detailed writing page = two moderate writing pages or three minimalist pages

*Keep in mind, moderate or minimalist does not mean spindly, thoughtless pages and lacking significant insight in your writing. You will be graded on your integrity and quality by me.

For each journal due date I will give you the amount you need to strive for. You will calculate the amount of pages when you turn in the rubric.

3. Well-roundedness - do you cover a majority of the tasks being asked of you? (25%)
4. Creativity - this can range from the layout to your creative thoughts in general. Not every page has to be a scrapbook page masterpiece! Scribbled thoughts are expected! The Beatles were said to have scribbled the lyrics to a famous song on a napkin in a restaurant. Take your napkin thoughts and paste them in your journal. (25%)

This journal is for you, ultimately. Make it fit your personality and artistic self. It is a place of DIVERGENT THOUGHT.