

Thematic - Photographic Topics During COVID-19

Certainly these are trying times for us as a community, both locally and globally. However you view the events we are going through, you are a part of a very historic moment in the planet's human history. The images you take as related to the COVID-19 Outbreak are a documentation of this history in the making. They may be images you share with your children or grandchildren. Additionally, this time of isolation can be very challenging for some or most us. You can use the art of photography to express what you are experiencing emotionally, socially, and mentally. Some of the most moving pieces of art have come out of pain and discomfort. If you prefer to not focus on this topic for these assignments or vary from this topic to non-related topics, you will have that choice which will be explained below.

Here is a list of topics to photograph during this time. For lack of a better title for these tasks they will be called "Photo Series" assignments.

Topics Related to COVID-19 Outbreak

Social Distancing: This will likely be one of the most remembered phrases of our lifetime. What does this look like? Create images that demonstrate what is occurring before our very eyes. Maybe you document what you and your family are doing around the house while in isolation. If you are allowed by your parents and you maintain the proper social distancing regulations, you can maybe document what your community looks like: signs on store windows about temporary closures, deserted streets, empty restaurants, people wearing protective face masks, etc.

Positives of this social distancing time: We are all of a sudden forced to be stuck in a house with our family. What are you as a family doing to make the most of it? Playing games, cooking/baking more? Getting neglected projects done around the home? Going out on walks with your family?

Loss and Grief: While we must always keep our perspective about the loss of life going on with this crisis a great deal of loss is taking place right now in other ways: job loss, lost sports seasons, lost time with friends, lost traditions of this time of year: prom, possibly graduation, and other events. Take images that focus on loss and grief. It is natural to feel grief for these things, even if they don't seem as serious as some of the other issues people face. This is an unprecedented event in our country's history and to navigate all that is lost in this time is without precedent. Even during the Great Depression and World War II some of these things were not canceled. Virtually everything has been canceled for a time right now. It is truly astounding.

Solitude/Loneliness: When we see Hollywood movies about pandemics, they are often filled with high drama and while there is certainly high drama going on in health care facilities around the world with this outbreak, for most Americans the result is a sudden drop in our normal routines and activities and we are thrust into a world that is much more quiet and with a lot more solitude. This may mean less drama for you or maybe it creates more drama. Create images that illustrate how you or those you know are dealing with this quiet and slower alone time.

Distance Learning: All of a sudden students, parents, administrators, and teachers are thrown into homeschooling and distance learning with little to no time to prepare. Document what this looks like. Students on Zoom with their teachers, parents or older siblings in the role of teacher, etc.

Work: Your parents or others you know may be going through some turbulent times with their work situation. Think of creative ways to document this, while maintaining social distancing laws and the current laws of the day.

Items of the Time: there has been this sudden surge of items that have garnered a great deal of attention: toilet paper, hand sanitizer, bottled water, protective face masks, etc. These seemingly mild, humble items have a whole new meaning in our lives. Take photos that comment on these items and their significance and meaning.