

# Photojournalism I Syllabus

Mrs. Holcomb

Fall Semester 2014

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Welcome to photojournalism! This is an exciting, creative class that will allow you to express yourself in a variety of ways and for a variety of audiences. By the end of first semester, you will have an excellent introduction to photography and photojournalism and what it takes to make excellent pictures. You will become 'visually literate', and you will be challenged, weekly.

Students always ask me **'What is photojournalism?'** Simply put, it's the ability to tell a story in story in pictures.

Every news outlet, publication house and media company rely on photojournalists to shoot compelling photos that enhance news stories. It's a given fact that our eyes seek out pictures before we read; the ability to bring people in with images is a powerful and important skill!

A photojournalist's job is to tell a story with pictures; however, a skilled photojournalist doesn't just show up to a news event and snap a few pictures. He or she 'shoots through' events, capturing the storytelling moments of them.

This class will teach you the basics to photojournalism so that at the very least, you will take better pictures, but ideally, you can work on a newspaper, magazine, yearbook or video staff as a photojournalist. This class serves as a prerequisite for The Leopard yearbook, The Red Ledger yearbook and Photojournalism II.

The general course outline is as follows:

- Introduction to the history of photography and photojournalism
- A portfolio of great photographs
- Introductory level project(s); Introduction to Photoshop
- Introduction to Adobe Bridge and ethics
- Intermediate level project(s); Intermediate photo-editing applications
- Introduction to captions/designs/layout
- Advanced level project(s)
- Portfolio

**Materials:** A spiral or loose leaf paper for note taking, a folder or section in a binder dedicated to photojournalism, a writing utensil and a flash-drive of 16GB or higher, preferably 3.0. These flash-drives will be used for picture storage and remain the property of the student.

**A \$50 supply fee is due by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school. This fee will cover membership and entry fees to the Fall ATPI competition (or a related photography competition), basic printing fees for approved enlargements, and/or a photography field trip.**

I will provide a class set of Get The Picture: A Guide for the Yearbook Photographer by Jostens, and other learning materials related to photojournalism and photography.

**Class Expectations:** As photographers, we will be capturing moments in and around school, so it is imperative that we conduct ourselves appropriately and respectfully wherever we are. EACH student will be required to attend at least ONE freshmen or JV level game to serve as an official photojournalist once EVERY six weeks; these will be selected via signup at the start of every six-weeks so that parents and/or employers know ahead of time, and can plan accordingly. The pictures taken from these events count as a major grade and will ideally be used for publication. Also, each student will be competing in at least one photography contest! I firmly believe that competitions help us grow and learn; and it never hurts to try!

Lastly, texting while 'on assignment' is not professional. You will be given an alternative assignment if your cellphone becomes an issue.

**Grading:** A minimum of two MAJOR grades (summative) and ten MINOR (formative) grades will be given each six-week period. Lovejoy High School has a campus-wide grading policy that will be followed for all classes in all subjects. Formative grades will count as 50 percent of the final average, and summative grades will count as 50 percent of the final average. This class is deadline driven, so it's crucial that each student meets the deadlines given.

**Discipline Policy:**

<b>Violation #</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Teacher-held detention and parent contact
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Office referral and parent contact

Further Violations	Office Referral: Administration discretion
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In order to succeed, it is essential that each student bring his/her camera when called upon to do so (school equipment will be available for check-out AFTER waiver is signed by parent); and that each student honors any and all photography job assigned and that each student conducts himself/herself professionally.

**Expectations:**

- Student is willing and able to take pictures when needed (which will be often)
- Student desires to take better pictures; and will endeavor to do so
- Student will take care of all equipment in his/her possession
- Student will seek ways to contribute to the related subjects taught at Lovejoy High School with his/her pictures

**How to reach me:**

My conference periods are first and fifth periods and you are welcome to come by any time. Sometimes I am out taking pictures or meeting with clients, so let me know ahead of time that you need to speak with me. My phone number is 972.742.8700; my email address is [Jennifer\\_holcomb@lovejoyisd.net](mailto:Jennifer_holcomb@lovejoyisd.net); and my personal website is [www.jenniferholcomb.com](http://www.jenniferholcomb.com)

For text updates and class reminders, please follow the QR code. You will be updated through Remind. I look forward to getting to know you



## EQUIPMENT WAIVER

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the guardian of  
\_\_\_\_\_, who is currently enrolled in  
Photojournalism I. I understand that the school has some  
photography equipment for this program that I am offering my  
child the chance to use. I understand that while my child is using  
the equipment, he/she is responsible for the proper care of it,  
and that should any damage occur as the result of neglect or  
willful destruction, my child will be held financially responsible.  
Normal wear is not something that will incur cost; however, theft,  
negligence and intentional damage will. I understand that the  
equipment my child may use includes:

Canon Powershot, EOS Rebel XS, T2i-T4i

Canon 50 ml lens

Canon 75-300 ml lens

Tripod/monopod

4-16GB memorycard

Canon lithium batteries

Parent signature and  
date\_\_\_\_\_

“If your pictures aren’t good enough, you’re not close enough!”

Robert Capa