



How to Create a Photojournalism Project:

**Showcasing the Viewpoints of Students
Experiencing Homelessness**

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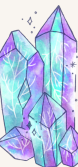
Step 1: Are You Ready?

Consider and determine the group's willingness to plan and create a photo gallery to illustrate youth homelessness. Planning a photo gallery can take a lot of time and effort. This type of project consists of recruiting volunteers, which should be students with lived experience of homelessness, that agree to make time in their schedules to be active in the project. Be honest with your group if this is something you all can take on due to resources and time needed.

Step 2: Know Your “Why”

First and foremost, know your “why” when starting a photojournalism project. Why are the students working on this project? What is the goal? Be sure to make your intent clear. Make sure your "why" was agreed upon by everyone in the group. Also, be sure to truly listen to the students and their "why." It can help shape the path to creating a product that is meaningful & authentic.

Ex: Your “why” could be to spread awareness of student homelessness within your community.



Step 3: Brainstorming

After figuring out your goal, students should brainstorm what images they want to depict with the photos, the purpose they are trying to achieve, and what will get the point across. Let your students take the lead and show what needs to be delivered. Students will talk about their experiences and how they can relate to the situations. Let the students' ideas flow & allow them to be creative. You are trying to use their lived experiences on homelessness to create a more authentic project. Be sure to thank them for their time, efforts, for sharing and for being vulnerable.



Step 4: Focusing your Ideas

This is an important part. It will keep the whole project organized when you go out to take photos. In this step, students brainstorm what kind of photos they are planning to take. It will help if you show them examples or ask them to explain what they were picturing in their minds. Students will also be brainstorming the locations to take the photos at. This should be simple, as the locations should be the same places that the students have slept at or spent time at while homeless. Lastly, students will be brainstorming what they want the end results to be from the photos (i.e. what feelings or thoughts should viewers walk away with after seeing the photos).

TIP: Discuss during brainstorming that the photos should hide the subjects' faces to protect the students' identities.



Step 5: Finalizing Ideas

After figuring out your goal, students should finalize what photos they will be taking, the purpose of the photojournalism project, and the locations where the photos will be taken. Let your students take the lead and show what needs to be delivered. All final questions and concerns should be discussed with the whole student group. Working out solutions together helps the students feel as though they are part of a team & that their voices are being heard.



Step 6: Planning

After finalizing the details of the photos, your group must plan the "who," "what," "when," and "where." Create a schedule. Pick the day and try to hit 2 to 3 locations. Ensure you have the props you need for your areas and the volunteers. One van is helpful if you have it, but if you still need to, ensure the group has the place and time they are meeting. Make sure an adult is present with the students while they take the photos to help navigate barriers the students may face when at the locations. Make sure all camera equipment is prepped for the photoshoot day, and all students know what roles they have the day of the photoshoots. Discuss a code word that all students will utilize if at any point they feel that a person or location is unsafe. If that code word is said, then all students and adult(s) will go back to the van and leave the location together.

Step 7: Finish the Mission

Go out there, and take the photos. Remember to honor the students' stories, but have fun. Keep notes to track any issues that occurred during the day and when/ where the photos were taken. It is best to stick with your outline, but if inspiration strikes in the moment, take the opportunity to explore it. The spontaneous photo may come out better than you thought it would.

Step 8: Selecting your Photos

After you have taken all photos, schedule another date to sit down with the students to review the images. Have the students select 10 photos that will create your photojournalism project. Have the students discuss which 10 images represent the goal they were trying to accomplish. It is important to also remember that editing can be a great tool to fix and change small impurities. You can also use editing features to change color tones of photos and add words to each photo, if the group decides they would like to do that.



Step 9: Print the Photos

Have the 10 selected photos be printed on poster-sized boards or canvases. Make sure the photos are large enough to be seen by rooms with a large audience. Also, take the photos and put them into a slideshow presentation, which can be shared virtually.

Step 10: Showcase the Photos

Now you can showcase this beautiful project to your community or school district. Using your community connections, ask to present the photojournalism project at meetings with community and school leaders. Prep the students to do the presentations themselves, by offering a lot of public speaking training. Make sure the presentations include the students discussing what their goal was with the project. It is the students' time to step up and help present, as using their own words of someone with lived experience of homelessness can make the presentation more meaningful and authentic. Make sure to avoid tokenism by not forcing students to speak about experiences they do not feel comfortable talking about. Also, create a virtual link where the photos can be shared online.

For more information on Student Voice & Multimedia projects, please visit kern.org/hip