

“A Day in the Life of...”

An interview with a professional photographer

Photographer’s Interview

You may work individually or in partners.

Please choose a **Local Photographer** who works in your chosen form to interview for this assignment.

Once you have located a professional photographer in the phonebook or on the internet record their **contact information**. When you contact the photographer, remember you are representing your school community. They will be filling out an evaluation form on your preparedness and professional conduct when the interview concludes.

Once you have contacted the Photographer and identified yourself, you will ask to set up an interview in person or by phone. **If you are under 18, you will need parental permission to visit a photographer’s studio.

During this interview you will be collecting information to create a “**Day in the Life**” photo-document. It could take the form of a 5 minute PowerPoint presentation, magazine layout or a bulletin display. Your presentation will include a brief biography/or history of the photographer’s interest in photography. (ie. Schooling, hobbies...why and how they started in this media)



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/paperpariah/3259656125/>

Include what form of photography this person creates. Is it commercial, weddings, family portraits, photo-journalism or artistic? Or a combination of all of these?

With permission, you may include some of their work. For example, if they have a website you can highlight this in your presentation or bring in brochures or studio examples.

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You may ask interesting questions about a career in Photography and have the photographer give you their opinion about different aspects of the field. Make the questions interesting and relevant to your presentation. (ie. Have you won any awards? What is your biggest professional accomplishment to date?)



<http://pep1000.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/interview.gif>

You can also take photos of their studio (with permission) and describe it in your presentation. Bring with you a method of recording. Pencil and paper, video (you may use clips in your power point) or tape recorder.

Create a conclusion to your presentation that includes a direct quote from your interview.

****You should prepare at least 8-10 questions for your interview. Please show them to your instructor 1 day prior to your interview and allow the photographer to have a copy if they request it in advance. (you may email it to them if they wish prior to their interview)**

You will be required to send a Thank You note post-interview so ensure you have the mailing information of your photographer before you leave their studio.

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Here are some helpful tips/suggestions for formulating your interview questions:

KINDS OF QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Ask questions that require extended responses rather than yes/no answers.
2. Gather information pre-interview about the photographer from their website and use that information in your interview questions.
3. Ask specific questions to capture a snapshot of what a Day in the Life would really be like for this photographer.
4. Ask some questions that will allow for fun or unique experiences to be told.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

What sparked your interest in photography?

You attended photography school. How did that experience impact you?

What is the biggest lesson you took away from your experience in photography school?

How do you market yourself?

Tell me about _____ Photography.

Your company specializes in wedding photography. What is it like to capture such special moments for others?

Why choose to specialize in this form of photography?

Tell me about a unique, funny, or interesting experience you have had while photographing a wedding.

Describe your typical day at work.

What advice do you have for individuals interested in pursuing a career in photography?

What do you love the most about your job?



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