

A tool for the interpretations of journalistic photographs

Characteristic	Examples and description
Photo-content	Name, if possible, and describe the place and character(s) in the photograph, their appearance, dress, facial expression, sex, age, relationship, social status, nationality, religion, culture, and so on. What are the characters doing/were doing? What feelings their faces, behaviour, or appearance express?
Caption	Now read the caption to this photograph. What is your interpretation of this photograph now? Does the caption add new information for you?
Photo-techniques	Describe the background in which the characters are displayed, colours, shading, light, its type (natural/artificial) and source (sunlight, candle light, lamp etc.). What can you see in the foreground, and in the background, which elements are centred? What is the atmosphere of this photograph?
Emotions / feelings	What kinds of emotions and feelings this photograph raises in you? Describe them.
Function	Is there anything in the photograph that catches your attention? Explain.
Symbol and visual rhetorical figure	Are there any elements in the photograph which seem to symbolize something? Explain. Can you name and describe any visual rhetorical figures in the photograph?
Intertextuality	Look one more time at the photograph. Does it remind you of some other images, art, film, other cultural artefacts, religious beliefs, or your own experiences? Please describe.
Photo-message	What message does this photograph carry? Is there any message?