



# PHOTOJOURNALISM VS PHOTOGRAPHY

## A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

*A clear side-by-side comparison explaining how purpose, ethics, responsibility, and intent define the fundamental difference between photojournalism and photography.*

EVALUATION CRITERIA	PHOTOJOURNALISM	PHOTOGRAPHY
<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE</b>	<i>Inform, document, and explain reality in the public interest</i>	Create images for artistic, personal, commercial, or expressive purposes
<b>CORE INTENT</b>	<i>Truthful reporting and contextual storytelling</i>	Creative expression, communication, or visual impact
<b>RELATIONSHIP TO REALITY</b>	<i>Must reflect real events and situations as they happened</i>	May interpret, stage, reconstruct, or fully invent reality
<b>ETHICAL FRAMEWORK</b>	<i>Strict journalistic ethics and accountability to the public</i>	Ethics vary by genre and personal or commercial standards
<b>STAGING AND DIRECTION</b>	<i>Not allowed if it alters meaning or reality</i>	Often allowed and expected (e.g., fashion, portrait, advertising)
<b>EDITING AND MANIPULATION</b>	<i>Limited, transparent, and non-deceptive</i>	Broad creative freedom, including heavy editing and compositing
<b>USE OF AI TOOLS</b>	<i>Highly restricted; must not alter factual content</i>	Allowed depending on intent and disclosure
<b>CONTEXT AND CAPTIONS</b>	<i>Essential for meaning, accuracy, and verification</i>	Optional; image may stand alone
<b>PUBLICATION ENVIRONMENT</b>	<i>Editorial platforms, news outlets, documentary projects</i>	Galleries, social media, advertising, personal platforms
<b>RESPONSIBILITY TO AUDIENCE</b>	<i>High – images influence public understanding and record history</i>	Variable – depends on context and use
<b>VERIFICATION AND METADATA</b>	<i>Often required (time, place, authorship)</i>	Usually optional
<b>VISUAL STYLE</b>	<i>Secondary to accuracy and narrative clarity</i>	Central to artistic or commercial value
<b>TIME APPROACH</b>	<i>Event-driven or long-term documentary observation</i>	Flexible; project-based or spontaneous
<b>LEGAL AND PRESS STATUS</b>	<i>Often associated with press credentials and accreditation</i>	No formal credentials required
<b>HISTORICAL ROLE</b>	<i>Creates visual evidence and collective memory</i>	Creates personal, cultural, or commercial imagery