



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

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