



City as Lab 2025-26

Photography Rubric

Photography Challenge 25-26

“Rhythm, Colour, and Movement: The Art of Our City”

Through this theme, we invite you to explore the artistic heartbeat of your surroundings. Art is not just found in galleries and museums—it’s in the rhythm of a street musician’s melody, the bold colours of a mural, the graceful movement of a dancer, and the everyday expressions of creativity that shape your city or town. Through this theme, capture how music, dance, and visual art weave into the fabric of your community.

But photography is only the beginning. As you document these artistic expressions, take a step further—research their significance in the context of your city. Some guiding questions for your research are given below:

- How did this art form emerge in your community, and what local stories does it tell?
- Does it preserve a tradition unique to your city, or does it reflect a modern shift in culture?
- How have historical events, social movements, or the city’s geography influenced this form of art?
- Consider the people behind it—are they long-standing cultural figures, emerging voices, or everyday citizens shaping the artistic landscape?
- What does this art say about the values, struggles, and aspirations of the people who live here?
- Think about its impact—does it bring neighbourhoods together, challenge perceptions of your city, or add to its identity in an unexpected way?
- Can you tell us something unique about the art itself? The style, size, duration, collaborations, intended impact, etc.?

Your project should not only showcase the art but also uncover how it connects to the heartbeat of your city. The narrative you develop should be very interesting and immediately hook the audience. We are not looking for Wikipedia copy and paste type of research. We want you to dig deep, talk to the artists, and document how each of us can connect personally to every photo you showcase.



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Criteria	4	3	2	1
Number of Photographs	The presentation consists of exactly 7 photographs that are clear and <u>take centre stage</u> . This means that the photo should be “HERO” of the presentation and should not be overshadowed by the text.	The presentation consists of 6 photographs only OR Only 6 of the 7 photos included in the video are clear and take centre stage (e.g., one is a too small or not easy to see)	The presentation consists of 5 photographs OR Only 5 of the 7 photos included in the video are clear and take centre stage	The presentation consists of more than 7 or less than 5 photographs OR More than 2 photos included in the video do not take centre stage.
Variety among Photographs	The photographs presented display a variety of photography techniques. The photographs differ from each other in <u>at least 5</u> of the following 7 criteria: 1. Shot size and orientation (portrait, landscape, wide-angle or macrophotography) 2. Time of day/ Contrast and lighting (daylight, night time, evening, early morning) 3. Angle (eye level, low angle, high angle, over the shoulder angle, Dutch angle) 4. Subject of the photo (different places, different issues, landscapes, people, etc. in all 7 photos)	The photographs differ from each other in <u>only 4</u> of the following 7 criteria: 1. Shot size and orientation 2. Time of day / Contrast and lighting 3. Angle 4. Subject of the photo 5. Shutter speed 6. Colour and Tone 7. Techniques	The photographs differ from each other in <u>only 4</u> of the 7 criteria 1. Shot size and orientation 2. Time of day / Contrast and lighting 3. Angle 4. Subject of the photo 5. Shutter speed 6. Colour and Tone 7. Techniques	The photos presented differ from each other in <u>2 or less</u> of the 7 criteria or they all “feel the same” e.g., all are photos of buildings taken at low, wide angle in broad daylight, with a black and white filter or all photos are taken at eye level



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	5. Shutter speed (photos that show motion exceptionally well as well as photos that capture still life) 6. Colour and tone (photographs with and without a filter to capture the right mood- using warm vs. cool tones, black & white, or selective colour for artistic effect) 7. Techniques (rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, depth of field)			
Connection to the challenge	All 7 photographs are clearly connected to the photography challenge described above. The audience should be able to see the connection immediately. Every single photo selected by the students strongly aligns to the challenge presented to them.	At least 5 of the 7 photographs align to the challenge.	At least 4 of the 7 photographs align to the challenge	Less than 4 photographs align to the challenge. OR It is difficult for the viewer to understand the connections the students wish to make in 3 or more photos
Written Information	All 7 photos are accompanied with a written description that includes the following components (ALL components should be included in EVERY photo to get a score of 4):	Only 6 photos are accompanied by the required written description – all 4 components of the information must be included to get the full 3 points	Only 5 photos are accompanied by the required written description – all 4 components of the information must be included to get the full 2 points	Less than 5 photos are accompanied by the required written description. OR



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	1. Title of the photo 2. Photographer's name 3. Filter used if any or state NONE 4. Technique used			More than 5 photos have the information included but it is not complete i.e. one or more of the written components are missing
Oral narrative	All 7 photos are accompanied with an <u>engaging</u> oral voiceover / narrative that includes: 1. Research around any of the guiding questions given above. 2. Why did YOU select this photo? What does it mean to you? AND The research is varied across all 7 photos and offers unique and interesting insights about the photos through the stories, anecdotes and information shared in the narrative. It evokes curiosity in the viewer.	Only 6 photos are accompanied with an <u>engaging</u> oral voiceover / narrative that includes: 1. Research around any of the guiding questions given above. 2. Why did YOU select this photo? What does it mean to you? AND The research is varied and offers unique insights about the art through the stories, anecdotes and information shared in the narrative for at least 6 photos.	Only 5 photos are accompanied with an <u>engaging</u> oral voiceover / narrative that includes: 1. Research around any of the guiding questions given above. 2. Why did YOU select this photo? What does it mean to you? OR 3 or more photos include only <u>descriptive</u> information in the voice-over/ narrative without providing any interesting or unique insights about the art (showing that students may not have done deep research)	Less than 5 photos are accompanied with an <u>engaging</u> oral voiceover / narrative that includes: 1. Research around any of the guiding questions given above. 2. Why did YOU select this photo? What does it mean to you? OR All photos have a voice-over/ narrative but overall, it is monotonous, repetitive or superficially descriptive without giving any real or unique insights / perspectives on the art.



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Quality of Video	The video is high quality with clear audio and images.	The video is high quality with clear audio and images AND there is no shakiness and the subject is perfectly in focus. There is appropriate music or voice-over used that evokes an emotional response in the viewer. The video feels mostly coherent.	The video is mostly of good quality with clear audio and images. 1-2 images display some shakiness, pixelation or the subject is not perfectly in focus. There is appropriate music or voice-over BUT it changes suddenly (the volume, pitch, tone, pace, genre, etc.) giving the video a slightly disjointed feel.	More than 2 images are not of high quality, The subject is not in focus, parts of the image seem cut off, pixelated or the image seems shaky.
AND	AND			
Expected Video length (3:30-4:00 min)	There is no shakiness and the subject is perfectly in focus.			
	AND	BUT		OR
	There is appropriate music used that evokes an emotional response in the viewer, with the right volume that does not interfere with the voice-over.	The pace of the video is too slow or too fast. The viewer sometimes needs to pause or forward some parts of the video.		The audio is inappropriate, too loud or jarring, the voice over is too fast or unclear or doesn't evoke the kinds of emotions students want the viewer to feel
	AND			OR
	The pace of the video is appropriate for viewing purposes and the viewer does not need to pause or forward any part of the video. The video feels coherent and consistent throughout.			The text is very difficult to read
				OR
				The video is too short to be impactful or too long (disengaging the viewer)
	3	2	1	0
Written Reflections	There is a separate document that includes the names of	The document includes reflections from only some students	Only 1 student's reflection is included.	No reflections are included



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	students, mentor and school that includes reflections from EVERY student. Reflections are authentic, show critical thinking. Reflections include: - what they learned (technical and other skills), - what they enjoyed -what they found challenging	OR All reflections are included but they could have been more authentic, personal or thought-through	OR There is only a group reflection included.	
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PLEASE NOTE: We will be asking students to upload ORIGINAL photos to a Google Drive as part of their final submission. Without the original photos and the written reflections, the submission will be considered incomplete and may not be accepted for review.