

# Student Life Photography



## THE ASSIGNMENT

Due to the constraints on student life coverage imposed by the pandemic, the student life photography contest will be different from previous years for this year's Regional Contest.

Your assignment here is to create a "pandemic portrait." This means that you should create a photographic portrait of a fellow student or student(s) who has/have been affected by the pandemic in a newsworthy way.

Your subject should be newsworthy in some way. That doesn't mean -- necessarily -- that they are prominent because of their job title, elected office or celebrity. Instead, you should consider the full range of news elements that could make someone prominent:

- **IMPACT:** Have they had an effect on people around them during the pandemic?
- **TIMELINESS:** Are they connected to an issue that is particularly timely regarding the pandemic?
- **HUMAN INTEREST:** Do they have an emotional story to tell -- whether one of joy or struggle?
- **UNIQUENESS:** Are they unique in a way that would interest readers? Have they been uniquely affected?
- **CONFLICT:** Are they part of a newsworthy story of opposing forces?

Or, of course, you might simply find a person who is prominent in a more traditional way: there is nothing wrong with photographing a "famous" fellow student!

As a photographer, you have all of the tools of portraiture available to you here: symbolic lighting, thoughtful composition, careful posing, meaningful wardrobe, significant props. However, be sure to take appropriate social distancing precautions.

**Note:** The guidelines for the State Contest for Student Life Photography will be communicated based on the state of the pandemic during the early months of 2021.

**Another note:** Captions will be vital here to explaining why your subject is newsworthy and how their life has been affected by the pandemic.

Of course, this contest expects that you act ethically. Those ethics mean that you don't use software to deceive your audience. Consider ways that you can create compelling portraits without manipulating the truth.

## DON'T FORGET

No need to pretend that you attend Sunflower High School, our fictional high school used for other contests. Simply caption your photo as you would in your school's publication.

## REMEMBER: CAPTIONS!

Because this is a photojournalism contest, caption writing is part of the criteria that judges will review from your submission.

## Contest Info

This is a VISUAL category for the KSPA Regional Contest.

Students must not request help or advice from any person other than the KSPA staff at [staff@kspaonline.org](mailto:staff@kspaonline.org).

All work must be solely that of the contestant.

## SUBMISSION

This category will use Better Newspaper Contests (BNC), for submission.

- **On Feb. 1**, the system opens for students to submit work.
- [Click here to submit your files](#)
  - [And click here for detailed submission instructions](#)
- Entries are due on **Sunday, Feb. 21 by 11 p.m. Central Time.**

## SPECIFICATIONS

The image must be uploaded to the KSPA online submission system according to these specifications:

- An image file saved as a jpg.
- When you submit your photo, you will provide your name and school name.
- When you submit your photo, you will provide a caption written in AP style and complete sentence(s).
- The image may be black & white or color.
- The image must be uploaded by **Sunday, Feb. 21 by 11 p.m. Central Time.**

**Failure to follow these requirements will result in disqualification.**