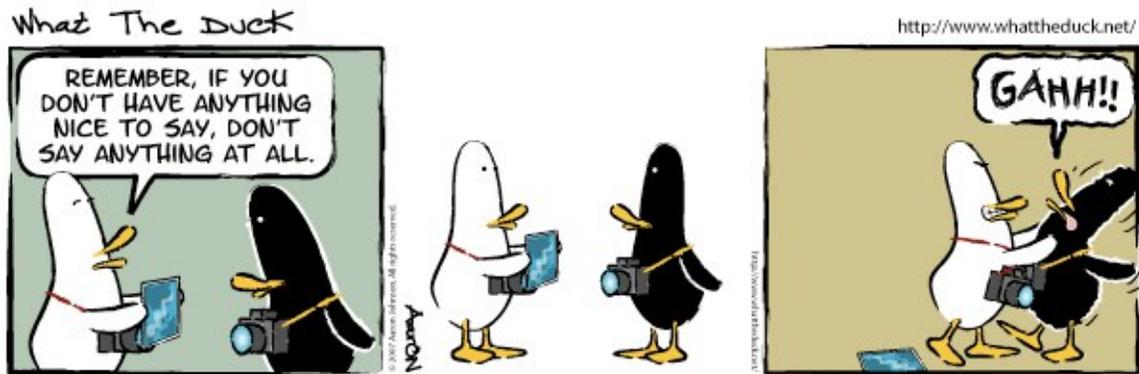


# Frames of Mind

Project 3. Due 5:30PM on Monday, November 7, 2011.



Ah, fall. With the leaves changing colors and the mercury starting to drop, many different types of photographic opportunities present themselves. And that means many wonderful scenes ready for you to capture!

Whether photos are taken in a meticulously setup scene or in much more candid and impromptu scenarios, it is easy to be confronted with the problem of having to whittle down a large set of hundreds (or more!) photographs to a much more concise and interesting subset that you then publish or share in some way. It is not unusual for this selection process to be considered the most repetitive and mind-numbing within a photographer's workflow, as it frequently eventually devolves into a decision process that feels a bit arbitrary when comparing two relatively similar photos.

However, this is a very valuable time for a photographer: it allows review of the work and provides a learning opportunity to decide what worked and which did not. Despite this self-feedback, the process can still feel time-consuming and could, in fact, become a bit biased.

It is easy for a photographer to become attached to certain photos, especially if a large quantity of effort was put into them. Sometimes, getting a fresh perspective from a third party is the best way to help select a subset of photos as this removes creation bias from the process.

And this is precisely the goal of this project. Working in a group of two or three people, you will take a large series of interesting photos (in both style and in subject) and eventually sit down with a sequence of photographs and pick only a small subset, editing those to near-perfection. However, the photos that you select and edit will not be your own!

Within 48 hours of the release of this project you will receive an email from the staff with a partner assignment. If you and a partner or two would like to work together (rather than be randomly assigned) please email [staff@cse7.org](mailto:staff@cse7.org) before this 48 hour window and let us know the name(s) of your partner(s). Be sure to touch base with your partner(s) as quickly as possible after receiving your assignment, as otherwise you might find yourself at a disadvantage when planning the logistics of this project.

## Part I. Click or Treat! (45 points)

Everyone in the group is expected to take at least **100** (one hundred) photos for the purposes of this project. This will be done independently; each individual is expected to take this many photos autonomously, and there's no need to discuss the photos themselves with your partner(s) as you work towards your goal of 100 images. Of course, communication within your group of other details is important, as detailed below.

Once you have completed taking your 100 photos, you should submit them to one of your partner(s) for editing. As you will perform the selection and editing process on somebody else's photos and not your own, sharing with another is important!

First, create a new folder in your Dropbox and share that folder with your partner. Note that we ask that you create a new folder for this purpose. Be sure not to share your submission folder (the same folder we shared with you in project 1) with anyone else as it is vital that this folder remains private to you. You might find these directions helpful for this task of creating a new folder and sharing it with your partner:

<http://www.dropbox.com/help/19>

Once you've shared that folder and your partner has accepted the invitation you may place your images into this folder. Your partner will automatically see your series once everything has synced!

A word of caution. Recall that a shared folder's contents are truly shared between the two of you; adding or deleting files within this folder will also add or delete files, respectively, from the shared folder on your partner's end. As a result, please be sure only to share files for this project (in other words, take care not to accidentally place a file private to you in that shared folder!) and be sure to get an "all clear" from your partner before deleting files that they might need. Despite these cautions, sharing a Dropbox folder does allow you to work with a partner anywhere else in the world, easily update files at any time of day, and work on your own schedule, without needing to schedule an in-person meeting to exchange the files!

There is no need to submit these photos to the staff as part of your submission. In fact, we ask that you don't; it's simply too many photos for us! Instead, please create a contact sheet with 9 or fewer images per page and submit that to the staff, instead. A contact sheet is simply a document that contains multiple pages, and each page contains multiple images on it. It's a preview, of sorts, of the series of images you have selected. Here is an example contact sheet with images by Ansel Adams:

<http://goo.gl/52b2m>

Here are the technical requirements for this portion of the project:

- You must create a new folder in your Dropbox for your images and share it with your partner to submit the images to them. Please be sure this folder is new and is not inside of the folder you use for submitting projects and problem sets.
- You must submit **exactly 100** images to your partner with enough time for them to complete the subsequent parts of this project. **Do not** submit these individual images to the staff.
- Communicate with your partner and ensure that both of you agree upon acceptable file types **before submitting them to each other**. In other words, don't submit RAW files without asking, as there is the possibility that those files are impossible to open for some reason (for example, due to limitations in available software). In fact, sending 100 RAW files to your partner will quickly overwhelm the capacity of both of your Dropbox folders. If you decide to exchange RAW files, we recommend that you first send each other the full complement of images in JPEG format (perhaps even in a slightly

reduced size) and, once your partner has selected a subset (say, 5-10 of those), can you exchange that subset in RAW format. If you are considering exchanging RAW files, be sure to send each other a sample RAW image from the camera you each intend to use so that you can ensure that file type will work!

- Before this project's due date, submit to the staff a contact sheet that has **no more than 9 images** on each page. Place this file within the "**3-Frames of Mind**" folder within your Dropbox directory that we shared with you in project 1. The images found in this contact sheet must be the same images you submitted to your partner, except scaled to fit into a single document. This contact sheet acts as a preview for the staff to see what you had submitted to your partner. There is no need for you to share this contact sheet with your group (unless you'd like to) and you certainly need not submit your partner's contact sheet on their behalf or expect your partner to submit yours.
- It is fine to submit multiple photos that are similar, but these must not dominate the series. You may only have a maximum of **four (4)** images that appear very similar within a group of related images. In other words, small differences in exposure, composition, *etc.*, are allowed, but once you have four images that could be considered the same photo (except for these small differences), you should be sure to change styles for subsequent photos.
- Within the series of the 100 images you should have at least **5 distinct "sets"**. In other words, some might be indoors, some might be long-exposure images, some might be landscapes, *etc.*, but each set must be completely unique in its setting, location, style, and subject. The purpose of this is to ensure large variability within your photos. You may certainly have more than 5 "sets" if you'd like.
- Photos you take should be taken with an **advanced metering mode** such as aperture priority, shutter priority, manual mode, bulb mode, or program mode.
- Despite working in a group, this portion of the project is intended to be done independently. Be sure that these 100 images are your own and were not taken with the assistance of your partner(s).
- You must make available the **original, straight out-of-the-camera versions** of all images to your partner. You may not perform any edits whatsoever on your own images. However, it is perfectly acceptable for you and your partner to decide to first share the entire series of images with each other in some (possibly resized) JPEG file format, if you prefer. But you must allow your partner to access the original versions of the photos they select as part of their process in editing those photos.
- All submitted images should be **original photos** taken by you for the purposes of this project.

## Part II. Selection and Editing (45 points)

After receiving your partner's photos, it's time to select and edit! You may use any software or method you wish, but the end result will be to select only **five (5)** of the best photos from your partner and perform at least some simple edits to them to make them as interesting and unique as possible. Those five photos will serve as your submission for this portion of the project. Your grade for this part depends on how well you work with the photos submitted by your partner, and is not impacted by how well your partner happens to edit your own photos. From your perspective, you are done with those 100 images you took before! In other words, you are graded over those aspects of the project that you have control.

Your goal in this portion is two-fold:

- To prove your skills as an editor by working within the confines of the photos submitted to you by your partner to create the best 5-image series possible.
- To make your partner appear to be an exceptional photographer.

Keep in mind that somebody else is editing your photos as well. Give them the courtesy of doing your best in this section. Not only will your partner expect greatness but your grade depends on it!

Here are the technical requirements for these images:

- Before this project's due date, you must submit **exactly 5** photos to your own "**3-Frames of Mind**" folder within your Dropbox directory that the staff shared with you in project 1. Though someone else will be editing the photos you took, do not submit those edited versions of your photos, only submit the final versions of the photos that you have selected and edited yourself.
- Name these files in sequential order (*e.g.*, **1.jpg**, **2.jpg**, **3.jpg**, *etc.*), and in the order you wish them to be observed by the grader. Progression can matter in the tone of the series. For example, you might start with weaker images and end on stronger ones.
- Each of the five images should be unique to demonstrate the range of submitted photographs.
- The submitted files must be **JPEG** images, regardless of the file type you and your partner decided to submit to each other for Part 1.
- Submit the highest resolution image that is possible based on the photos that were submitted to you.
- You are allowed complete freedom on the edits you perform on the images. However, you may only use those images submitted by your partner. You should not, for example, composite other images or photographs into your partners' series. It is perfectly acceptable to submit images that require only moderate amounts of edits, as a successful and powerful image does not always necessitate copious amounts of editing. At the same time, some images might benefit from slightly heavier editing. This is entirely up to you to decide.
- In the rare case that your partner does not successfully complete all of the technical requirements for Part 1 (for example, by submitting fewer than 100 photos to you or not making available the original files) then you are still expected to do the best you can with the images provided to you; you must still meet these requirements as outlined in this part of the project to receive full points for this portion. Do the best you can, but your grade will not be impacted if your partner was unable to provide all 100 photos to you, the quality of the photos submitted to you is somehow lacking, or there is some other issue with those images.
- Feel free to show off the final images with the original photographer once you are done! They might be interested in seeing which photos you selected and how you decided to edit them. Keep in mind that you are to submit to the staff only the photos that you edited (and not the edited versions of your 100 photos that you took for part 1), so this sharing is meant to be informative and fun.
- Please respect your partner's copyright. The 100 images submitted to you belong to your partner, and you should not publicly post, distribute, or share those photos without their permission, even given the effort you placed in editing them. Similarly, your partner should not publicly post, distribute, or share the final edited versions that you created. It might be best to consider the final images as a joint copyright; if you and/or your partner would like to post, simply communicate the intention and, after approval, apply attribution to both the editor and the photographer when posting the image.

### **Part III. Tumblr (10 points)**

Finally, post something to the course blog! You may choose to post one of your unedited 100 images, one of the images you edited, or one of your 100 images that was edited for you, if you'd like, or perhaps a link to some related material that you found while working on this project. Please keep in mind that if you wish to post an edited image that you receive permission from both the photographer and the editor before doing so. The post need not be directly related to the material in this project, though, and you might post something that is instead tangentially related to digital photography. Given the opportunity, this might be a great time to show off your hard work!

Of course, this is only a minimum requirement - you should feel free to contribute to the fascinating photos and links that are being accumulated on the blog even outside the scope of a project.

Once you have created your post, paste the post's permalink into text file (a Word document, PDF, or plain text file is fine) and save it as "Tumblr" in the "**3-Frames of Mind**" folder in the Dropbox directory we shared with you. Be sure this is done before the due date, or your entire submission will be considered late. Even though you are working with a group, you should make your own post and submit your own Tumblr permalink.