

The N4C Photo Essay Contest
Telling Your Story
Deadline: April 2th 2008
Send to:
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A picture is worth a thousand words—but what if your picture(s) are asking for some music and words to complete the story! The N4C photo essay is your chance to combine your photography, your choice of music, and if you wish narration to tell your friends about your favorite place for photography, illustrate a ‘how to’, or just to have fun. The subject matter is completely open, you can mix and match the old and new, and use as much creativity and imagination as you can find (or borrow from those who have done this before!).

Now’s the time to consider what your story will be and start getting your slides and negatives scanned, or digital images together or to take that extra image or two that will round out what you need. You’ll also need to find the music and compose any narration you wish to use for your essay. Pro Show Gold (Photodex) is the favorite of PC users while those who use Apple like iMovie 06 or Final Cut Pro Express 4.0. **Here’s the best guidance for producing an essay: use any software you want to put your essay together, but make sure that it can be exported to DVD format.** The end result should play on all computers and on your home DVD player. (Note that those who have the new PC Vista operating software will need to burn DVD’s with the ‘mastered’ format selected before burning to insure compatibility with computers running older PC software or MAC software.) If you have any questions about software, conversion to DVD format or other topics, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly at d.tomes@mac.com or call me at 515 986 3913.

Here’s what you need to know about the judging. The three areas that are judged are (1) overall impression, (2) photography and (3) commentary and sound track. The overall impression includes interest, originality, mood and impact while the photography stresses the familiar categories of technical quality, composition, variety, and absence of distractions. The commentary and sound track are judged on their style, appropriateness, and combination of music, narration, and sound effects. One additional factor for the slide essay is how all the components flow together to tell the story—visually, sound, and ‘smoothness’.

(Dwight Tomes, N4C slide essay chair, d.tomes@mac.com)