



foto friendship

Study Guide for Teachers & Students

Aims and Objectives:

Foto Friendship connects high school students in East Timor and Australia by enabling them to create and share their lives through photo stories.

See: www.fotofriendship.com & www.facebook.com/fotofriendship

An independent volunteer-run project, Foto Friendship aims to:

- Foster creativity, communication and connection between the children of East Timor and Australia.
- Teach participants photographic skills and explore artistic expression and visual storytelling mediums and techniques.
- Facilitate the creation of personal self-expression through photography.
- Raise awareness about the history and contemporary life of children in East Timor.
- Provide an insight into life in Australia from a personal perspective.
- Build friendships and a sense of international community.
- Create ongoing communication and collaboration between school communities
- Create a sense of wider community involvement through exhibition of selected foto stories from Australia and East Timor in online and public exhibitions.

Project Description

Each student will individually respond to foto stories created by students in East Timor. Your response will consist of six photographs, each with a short text description (maximum 40 words per photo including a title).

These foto stories will be your introduction: telling the story of your life and giving a sense of what is important to you. Similar to the concept of pen pals but with images and words, the idea is to create a personal reflection on your life. These stories will continue a conversation with people your own age but who live far away and superficially at least, a very different life.

One of the photos needs to be a self-portrait that says something about who you are. The subject matter and composition for the other five photos are up to you: abstract or literal, raw or post produced, archival or new. You can take the photos yourself or choose to appear in a photo (and direct someone else to take it). Ask yourself about who is important in your life? Is there a special place, activity or object that would provide insight into what is important to you? The main thing is that your foto story series is an expression of who YOU are.

Project Process

1. Become familiar with the camera and photographic techniques.

Your photos need to be the best quality as possible, so we can print and exhibit them in a large format. For this you need to-

- Use the best camera you have access to. Mobile phones may not give a high quality image.
- Adjust the settings so that the camera takes the highest possible resolution image.
- Your images need to be in focus and have the correct exposure, not too light or dark.
- Experiment with the camera, so you are familiar with the focus and exposure settings.

2. Start taking photos-

- Take lots of photos; even the best photographers take many photos before that are happy with one.
- Think creatively and don't be afraid to experiment.
- Download and back up your photos so you don't lose them. Put them in a folder labelled with a name so you can easily find them, such as *Foto Friendship_Surname*. Make sure you keep the original camera file; photos shared on Facebook or email lose resolution and quality.

3. Make selections-

- Look carefully at your photos. Select a short list of your preferred photos making sure they are of an acceptable technical standard and place them in a separate folder labelled with a name so you can easily find them, such as *Foto Friendship_shortlist_Surname*.
- Discuss your selections with a classmate and/or your teacher. Create a further short list of up to ten photos. Name each file with a title, (this can be changed at a later date if you want). Place the files in a separate folder labelled with a name so you can easily find them, such as *Foto Friendship_shortlistfinal_Surname*.
- Copy the final short list folder onto the device as required by your teacher the Foto Friendship team. As a reminder these final selections must come from the original camera files, photos shared on Facebook and email are of a lower resolution and image quality.

4. Final selection and discussion

- Your teacher or the Foto Friendship team will discuss your short list with you in order to choose the final six.
- Each photo is to be accompanied with a short written description. If you feel confident to do so, write a short description and /or thoughts and feelings about each photo and bring a copy (digital or hardcopy) for discussion with your teacher or the Foto Friendship team.