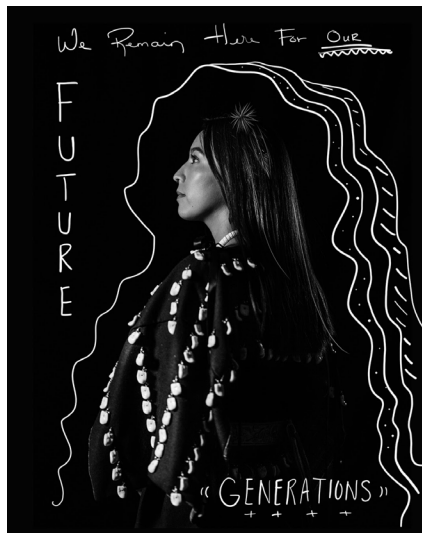


# Project Planning with Intention and Authenticity

Inspired by the project [The Power of Telling Your Own Story](#) by Josué Rivas presented at Photoville 2020

This lesson will help students set clear intentions for an artistic project. This pre-production process is designed to help creators slow down and listen to the emotions guiding their ideas in order to move forward with authenticity, making work that reflects their truest selves.



(left to right) Photo by Tekpatl Kuahtzin (Nahua/Cucapa) and Kelli Moody (Warm Springs/Yakama/Lummi/Musqueam)

## Students will be able to:

- Clearly outline their project intentions and proposed process.
- Refer back to and reflect on this guide throughout the project.
- Connect personal experience and feelings to the work they wish to create.

FEATURING PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
**Andrea Garcia** (Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara/Mexican),  
**Tekpatl Kuahtzin** (Nahua/Cucapa), **Joey Montoya** (Lipan Apache Band Of Texas), **Kelli Moody** (Warm Springs/Yakama/Lummi/Musqueam), **Cheyenne Phoenix** (Diné/Northern Paiute), **Paul Wilson** (Klamath), **Ernesto Yerena** (Yaqui/Chicano), **Isabella Zizi** (Northern Cheyenne/Arikara/Muskogee Creek)

## AUTHORS

**Josué Rivas**  
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FACILITATOR/EDITOR  
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## GRADE LEVEL

**Middle School to Adult**

## SUBJECTS

**Photography, Social-Emotional**

## TIME REQUIRED

**3-4 sessions**

## KEY IMAGES

[Image Bank](#)  
[Artist Talk](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Video: Create Forever with Josué Rivas](#)  
[Artist Website](#)  
[photoville.com/edu](http://photoville.com/edu)

## MATERIALS NEEDED

**Pen/Pencil**  
**Paper**

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## LESSON PART 1: INTRO

1. Spend some quiet, uninterrupted time thinking individually about your ideas and your intentions for this project. Get out a piece of paper and a writing utensil and spend at least 20 minutes freewriting, using the following questions as a guide:
  - Why are you making this?
  - Who are you doing it for?
  - Where do you see this going?
2. When you have finished your freewrite, review and highlight or mark the parts of your responses that feel most important or essential for you moving forward.

## LESSON PART 2: ACTIVITY

1. After reviewing your free write responses, identify someone who you trust to talk to about your project. This could be an elder, a close friend, or someone else. Most importantly, make sure this is someone who knows you well and who is supportive of you—someone you would go to for advice.
2. Talk through your project idea and your intentions with this trusted person. Focus on what you are feeling about the project and ideas, and allow emotion and personal experience to frame this conversation.
3. Ask the trusted person to listen actively while keeping in mind these three questions:
  - What feelings and emotions do you hear coming up that need to be honored in this process?
  - Where do you think these intentions could be clarified?
  - What about this project or idea is exciting or intriguing to you?
4. Ask this person to write down or share the answers to these questions with you after you have talked about your project. Keep their responses or take notes on their answers.

## LESSON PART 3: REFLECTION/EXTENSION

1. Return to your intentions from step 1 and reflect on the advice and reactions you received in step 4. Freewrite for at least 20 minutes and use these questions as a guide:
  - Are there ways you can sharpen your intentions for this project even more?
  - Are parts of the process coming into focus for you?
  - What do you need to make this project a success for you?

*This lesson plan was created during the Photoville Fall 2020 Educator Lab, as a collaboration between educators and the artist. The 2020 Photoville Festival Education Month is proudly presented in partnership with PhotoWings with additional support by the Philip and Edith Leonian Foundation.*

# Project Planning with Intention and Authenticity

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- 2. Return to your first three questions and refine your project intentions based on the feedback you have received and the reflection you have done. Try to answer each question in one paragraph and be as specific as possible.
  - Why are you making this?
  - Who are you doing it for?
  - Where do you see this going?
- 3. Partner up with another student or colleague to share the edited version of your project intentions. Practice deep listening when your partner is speaking, and feel free to share acknowledgments and questions you have afterward.
- 4. Have your partner do the same while listening to your project ideas, listening actively first and then sharing and responding after.
- 5. Use these intentions as a grounding document that you can return to as you begin your project—as a reminder of the core values of your project as well as something that you can edit throughout the process.

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## STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

### [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.5](#)

○ Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

### [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.10](#)

○ Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1](#)

○ Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

## Visual Arts Blueprint Strands

### ○ Art Making

- Deepen imaginative capacities
- Develop a personal style

### Careers and Lifelong Learning

- Recognize and articulate personal and professional goals

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# Photoville Education Resources


Browse the Photoville Education Resource library for over 20 free lesson plans and resource guides for incorporating photography and storytelling into the classroom.

These lesson plans were developed in collaboration with over 150 educators through our [Educator Labs](#). Educators across subject matters interested in incorporating visual storytelling into their curriculum participate in a free one-day professional development workshop that culminates in a hands-on lesson planning session in collaboration with the artist.


We always love hearing how our exhibitions are used in the classroom; if you would like to submit feedback and stories of your experience, please email us: [education@photoville.com](mailto:education@photoville.com).

## Filter Lesson Plans By **THEME**


[SHOW ALL](#)   [COMMUNITY STORIES](#)   [ENVIRONMENT](#)   [REPRESENTATION & IDENTITY](#)   [SOCIAL ISSUES](#)




**Who We Are**  
Students will create a visual project that tells a counter-narrative about themselves and/or their community.  
Inspired by [Griselda San Martin](#)




**Music As Artifact**  
Students will look at the music traditions in their own lives, and as a way to connect with a community member.  
Inspired by [No Wahala, It's All Good](#)




**Not Only**  
Students will create a narrative that reveals two sides of their partner through portraiture and story writing.  
Inspired by [The Players' Tribune](#)




**Me: Inside/Outside**  
Students will use photos to learn about ourselves and each other, both inside and outside of the classroom.  
Inspired by [#ThisIs18](#)




**Portrait Of A Space**  
Students will create a photo story that personifies a space that they choose or claim as their own.  
Inspired by [Janna Ireland](#)




**Empathy And Photography**  
Students will explore how empathy and representation affect our perceptions of a set of photos.  
Inspired by [Bethany Mollenkof](#)



**Typecast**  
Students will reflect on identity and stereotypes inherited from the world.  
Inspired by [Haruka Sakaguchi](#) and [Griselda San Martin](#)



**Finding Nature**  
Students will make personal connections to the environment through photography.  
Inspired by [Culture Trip](#) and [Waterkeeper Alliance](#)



**The Story Of A Space**  
Students will tell the story of a community through focused long-term documentation of a small section space.  
Inspired by [Michele Asselin](#)

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The Photoville Education program is in partnership with PhotoWings



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