

Capturing a  
Moment in  
History

# PHOTO BOOK

Photographers often present collections of photographs in a book. Such series tell a visual story. Themes and narrative structures underly each photograph in the collection.

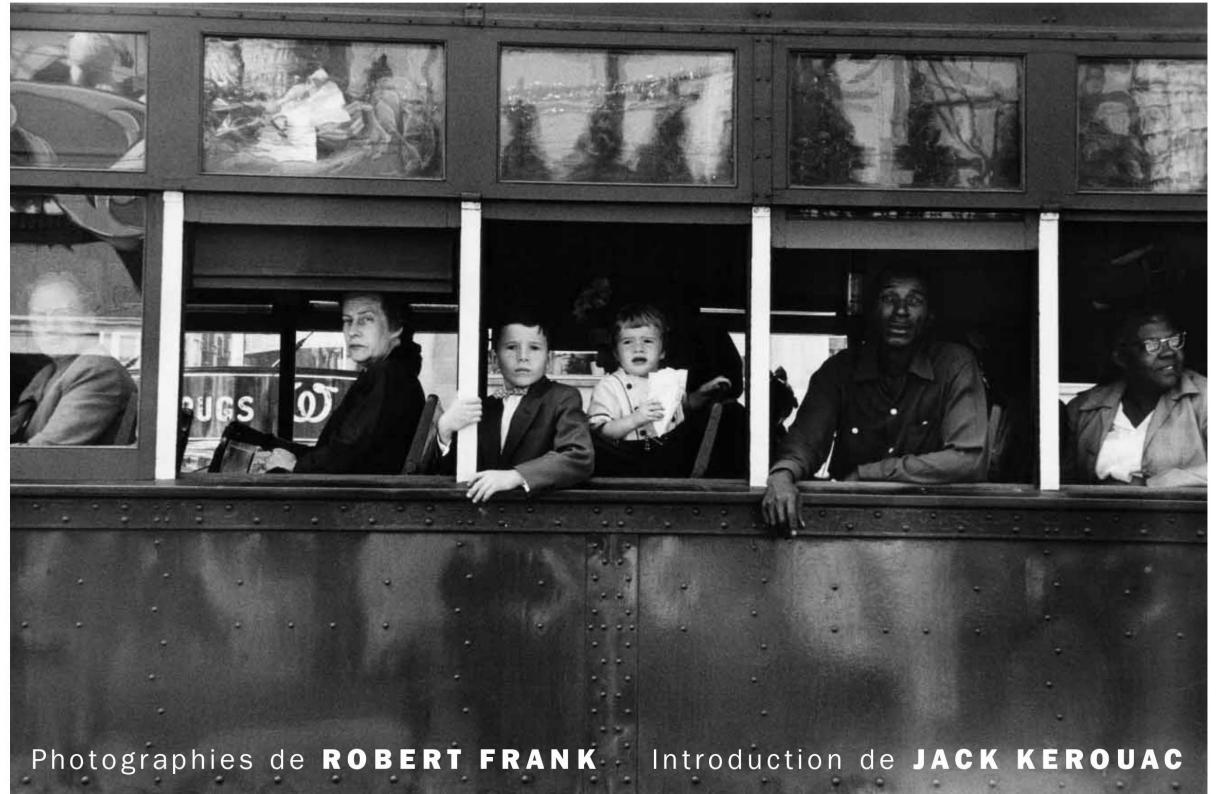
In much the same way we construct elements within a photographic composition we can assemble specific photographs to construct an impactful collection of images.

In this project you will make your own photobook in the form of a multi-page PDF. Illustrate a story about life over the last year. Shoot images that fit into a theme. Build a narrative.

# LES AMÉRICAINS

Photobook

Example



Photographies de **ROBERT FRANK**   Introduction de **JACK KEROUAC**

This sequence of 83 pictures in *The Americans* is non-narrative and nonlinear. It uses thematic, formal, conceptual and linguistic devices to link the photographs.

*The Americans* displays a deliberate structure, an emphatic narrator, and what Frank called a "distinct and intense order" that amplified and tempered the individual pictures.



What's the Narrative Here?

Trolly – New Orleans, 1955. From The Americans © Robert Frank



Parade Hoboken, New Jersey, 1955. From The Americans © Robert Frank

Do You See a Theme?

Find A Protagonist



Drive-in movie, Detroit 1955. From The Americans © Robert Frank

# Spread Example from Robert Frank



# Poetry in Words and Images

THAT CRAZY FEELING IN AMERICA when the sun is hot on the streets and music comes out of the jukebox or from a nearby funeral, that's what Robert Frank has captured in these tremendous photographs taken as he traveled on the road around practically forty-eight states in an old used car (on Guggenheim Fellowship) and with the agility, mystery, genius, sadness and strange secrecy of a shadow photographed scenes that have never been seen before on film.

Anybody doesn't like these pitchers don't like potry, see? Anybody don't like potry go home see Television shots of big hatted cowboys being tolerated by kind horses.

(Jack Kerouac from THE AMERICANS)



Hoboken, New Jersey



Detroit

Want To See More?

[https://oscarenfotos.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/robert\\_frank\\_-\\_the\\_americans.pdf](https://oscarenfotos.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/robert_frank_-_the_americans.pdf)

# Project Overview

Robert Frank captured the the concepts and themes of America as it was in a specific year: 1955. How will you capture the themes and concepts of the last year?

Start by doing some research. Read interviews conducted by Freeburg's English Students. Write down specific quotes. Try to find themes that you can express through photography. Essentially, you will illustrate the research with photography and construct a mini-photobook (3-8 pages) with Adobe Indesign.

## Essential Skills

- Typography
- Layout
- Photography

What's this going to look like?

## 3-8 Page PDF with @least 5 Original Photos and Text (Copy from Primary Research)

Page #1:

- Title of Photo Series (Based on Writers' Research)
- Photographer's Name
- Writer's Name

Pages #2 (and so on):

- Title of Specific Photos (5-10)
- Quotes From Interview(s) with Citations

**Themes to Consider (Are there more?)**: Fear, Regulation, Change, Family, Restriction...