Why Create a Photo Essay?
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Creating a photo essay is an exciting way for NBCC members to share more of their photographic work with club members and others. Unlike sharing a single photo in a competition, a photo essay is more akin to sharing a "body of work". It is a collection of about 40-50 closely related photos organized to tell a story or covey a theme or concept.

Documentarian Ken Burn's work is one of the best examples of the use of a photo essay to tell a story. In his history of the Civil War, Ken Burns had only still photos from mid 1800s but using dynamic photo essay techniques like panning and zooming, he was able to create energy and bring the story to life. Photo essay software allows us to add narration and music to a photographic "body of work" which enhances the visual impact of the photography.

There are many personal reasons to create photo essays. We all have collections of photos that are more powerful together than alone. Photo essay files are easy to send to family and friends and/or show on social media and are a great way to share recent travels, to commemorate family gatherings or to remember memorable events.

If you have not worked with Photo Essay apps, the Photo Essay Committee is here to help. Club members who are interested in creating a photo essay should first contact Stu Mathison, Chair of the Photo Essay Committee (slmathison@aol.com).

Through the fall of 2023, Stu Mathison will be leading a study group on essay creation and the use of popular essay creation software, such as Photopia and iMovie. A two- hour introduction to Photopia can be found on the NBCC website.

To help new essayists, members of the Photo Essay Committee will be assigned, based on software expertise, to provide technical assistance and constructive comments to new essayists as they work on their first essay.

NBCC will continue its tradition of hosting an annual photo essay show in the Spring of 2024 – it will be a virtual show. All members are welcome to submit essays for the Annual Show.