

5 simple ways to tell a powerful visual solutions story

Hi, and welcome to the second video of module three. In this video, we're going to talk about telling a powerful visual solutions story. In this week's first reading, the Solutions Journalism Network hosted a Twitter chat to ask two experts Joseph Omar, co-founder of Hashtag Our Stories, and Marcio Pimenta, a freelance photographer. How to Tell a powerful visual solution story. Journalist Mira V.J. and Advisors reporting a solutions focused story requires time, resources and often a lot of patience. But a good story doesn't always need words. Images can supplement and strengthen good reportage. Here are five simple ways to tell a powerful visual solution story.

First, be willing to learn and unlearn. Photography offers journalists immense potential to learn and challenge what they know about the world. Pimenta says that it's important to remember that communities often face limited choices and tend to find solutions to problems with the information they have at their disposal. Plan a storyboard before you report a story. Storyboarding your ideas helps writers report the story successfully. Omar says that although there's no social video formula for viral success, focusing on delivering a clear message in the first 3 seconds of your social video helps capture a reader or viewers' attention. Keep it real. Don't be afraid to shoot live. It's immediate, real and raw, says Joseph Omar. Live videos and photos help capture moments as they happen. Most photographers lose that opportunity to get a good footage because they worry about getting the perfect shot. Use new tools to creatively document your stories. There are hundreds of apps and online web tools that help photographers creatively document and tell their stories. Take out which tools Yusuf Omar recommends. Be empathetic to your subjects. Good journalism is built on trust. Without it, the story suffers. Master Pimenta says that journalists should spend most of their time talking to their subjects and establishing trust with the communities that they are covering.

The story, he says, belongs to them. Photography is an extraordinarily intimate practice, and he advises amateur photographers to focus on the person, not just the technique. And transparency is the focus of this week's second reading. Transparency in journalism is about answering audiences' questions both asked and on asked by Joey Mayor of Trusting News. Mayer writes The calls for transparency in journalism aren't new, but they are getting more frequent and insistent. It can be tough, though, for journalists to picture what transparency should look like day to day. Beyond your about page in your ethics policies, how can you make pulling back the curtain part of your day-to-day work? Mayor explores some best practices and recommends asking yourself these questions. Start with anticipated questions. Fundamentally, transparency elements are designed to tell your audience what you want them to know your process, your people, your motivation, your ethics, and your values. A good way to kickstart transparency effort is to make a list of what your audience members have asked you to explain and what you wish they understood. Anticipate. What about a story your users might miss Assume? What might you take for granted that they might not understand at all? Mary includes an example of Why are we doing this story? In case he urges threats at schools. When to report.

Secondly, how are we doing the story? The Tennessean on who they talk to for a project is a good example of description structuring. The Sarasota Herald-Tribune on filing more than 150 record requests is a good example of what else you should know. The Herald Tribune showed how public records were used and why that's important, Merritt tells us. You don't have to ask those questions for every story just for coverage that really matters. Pick one of these questions and figure out how to answer it. Next week in Module four Solutions Journalism. New ways of elevating your reporting and engaging audiences will

be wrapping things up with building solutions journalism into your workflow. Our guest speaker, Swati Sunjata of DA Solutions Journalism Network lead fellow and accredited instructor, will unpack for us what a solutions Journalism Whisperer is and the three phases of a solutions Journalism Workstream. Planning, Execution and Processing The Story. Thank you for watching and I'll see you in the forums.