

## Budding Photo Journalists

Students love technology and most students have experience taking photos with at least a cell phone. The problem is that their primary interest in photography tends to be “silly selfies.” If you are using photography as a means to encourage interaction with the site, focus their attention on including the site in the photograph. A selfie of them interacting with the art or of their friends interacting with the art would be excellent. Or they might try to compose an interesting photo of the artwork. One way to encourage them is to create a *purpose* for the photos.

- Creating a photo journal or memory book of your trip;
- Selecting photos to put on the class website;
- Illustrations for an article for the school or local newspaper about your trip;
- Illustrations for reports or multimedia presentations;
- Illustrations for poetry or other creative writing;
- Assignments for art class.

They can post photos to the Berea Public Art tour Facebook page by following these steps:

- Like the Berea Public Art Tour Facebook page.
- Take a photo of the art (or even better you interacting with the art!)
- Post the picture to Berea Public Art Tour’s Facebook page and tag it using @Bereapublicart and #Bereapublicart.

Share these tips with your young photographers, using these photos taken by youth to illustrate your points.



**Framing:** Sometime stepping back from a subject and considering how to create a “frame” for it can make your photo more appealing.

**Composition:** Pay attention to everything that is in the viewfinder. Notice if there are distracting elements in the background or if your shadow falls across the image.

You can move or rearrange elements in your photograph to make the most impact.



**Perspective:**

- Experiment with perspective. Sometimes the best way to take a photo is straight on, but sometimes taking a photo at an angle can make it more dynamic.

- Unusual perspective, such as looking straight up or down at a subject, can add interest.



## Narrative:

- Look for photos that seem to tell a story.

Edit your photos before and/or after downloading them to select your best, but you don't have to stop there. Whether you are creating a photographic memory book or a presentation for class, you can use programs like Photoshop to enhance the color saturation or the contrast or to crop the picture to eliminate distracting elements or to focus on specific details. Using WORD or similar program, you can add a frame or other special effects. Taking the time to review and enhance the photos your students have taken on the trip provides an opportunity to relive and reflect on the experience you have shared.



You can take this one step further by asking students to take pictures of public art in their own community. This helps them think about the different types of art they experienced on the Berea Public Art Tour and to look at their own community through a different lens, the camera lens. Can you find interesting architecture, monuments, sculptures, murals, stained glass, or other works of art? Don't forget to look inside as well as outside, anyplace that is accessible to the public. Look for dynamic art (demonstrations, festivals, jam sessions) as well as static art. You might want to create a photo collage of public art in your community or go all out and create a walking guide or brochure. If you have a local tourism committee or commission, go for a visit or invite them to speak to your class or group.