

Course Notes

Unit 3

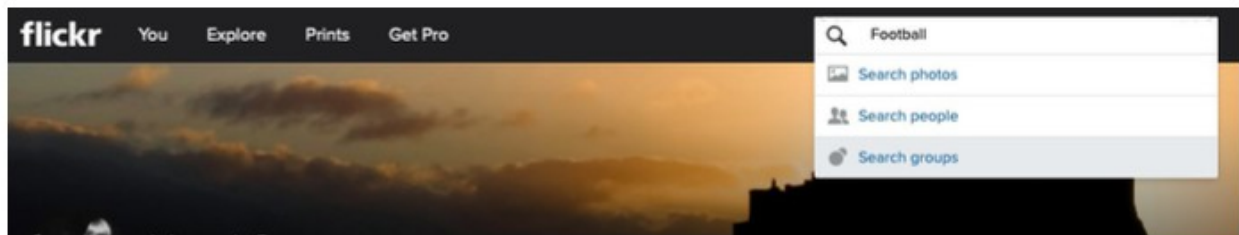
You are asked to produce a Portfolio of 8 images from one of the topics listed below. In this Unit you will learn to research your chosen subject and explore it in depth by taking many images, then to select and edit them to make a cohesive presentation (portfolio) of your 8 best images demonstrating your photographic skills, uploaded to your album on the hub web-based image-sharing account. You will show evidence of health and safety risk assessment on location and using the internet throughout the Unit.

Choose a topic from one of the following -

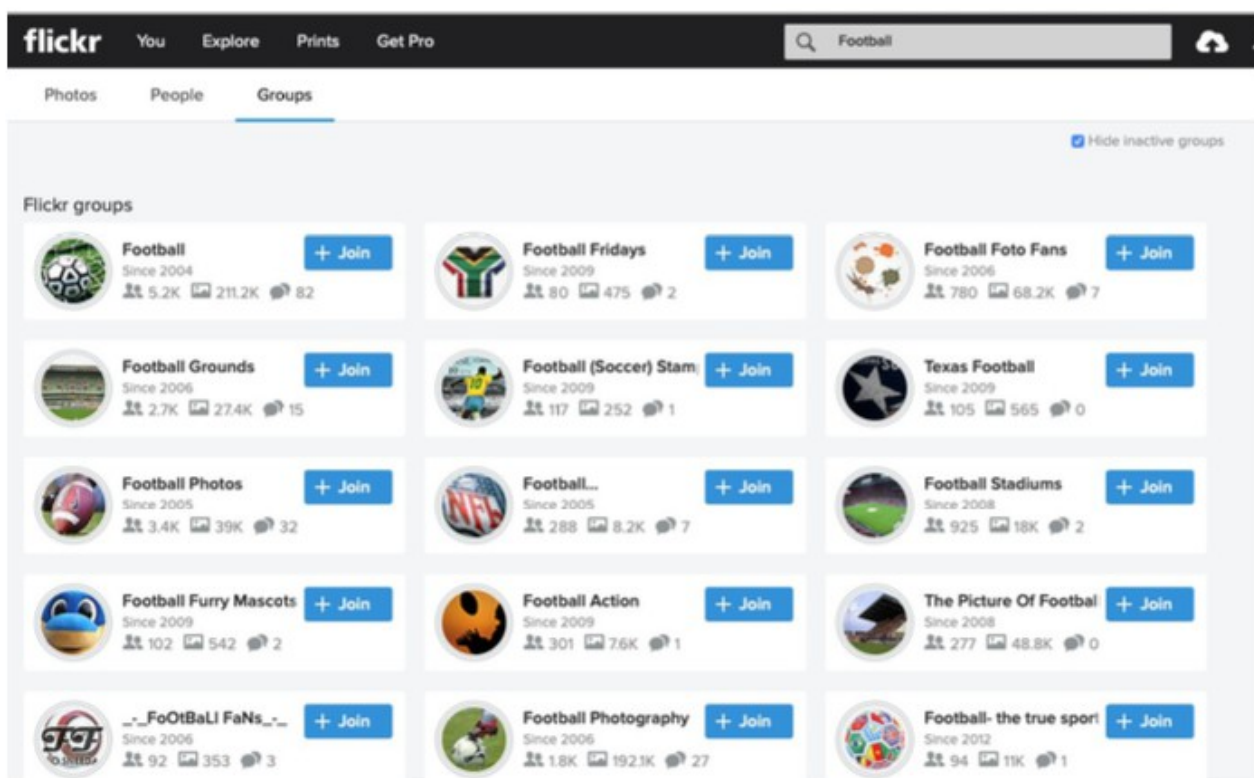
- Photographing buildings: this could be houses, public buildings, church, sports hall etc
- Documentary photography: telling a story about a place, yourself, someone else or other people
- Event photography, such as a festivals, celebrations or community gatherings
- Fine art: using the camera to express your own feelings or emotions in an artistic way
- Landscape: using the light to show the beauty of the land, the rivers, plantations, trees and flowers
- Social photography: portraits or weddings or concentrating on people or a person
- Sports such as football, athletics or other games

Use this list as guide to finding a topic which interests you. Spend some time researching the subject on the internet and looking at how other photographers have 'designed' or composed their images, how they have framed the main subject and related it to the background, what was the light like and the conditions? Try to analyse exactly what it is about an image which appeals to you. If you can then apply the same vision to your own photos then you will make great pictures!

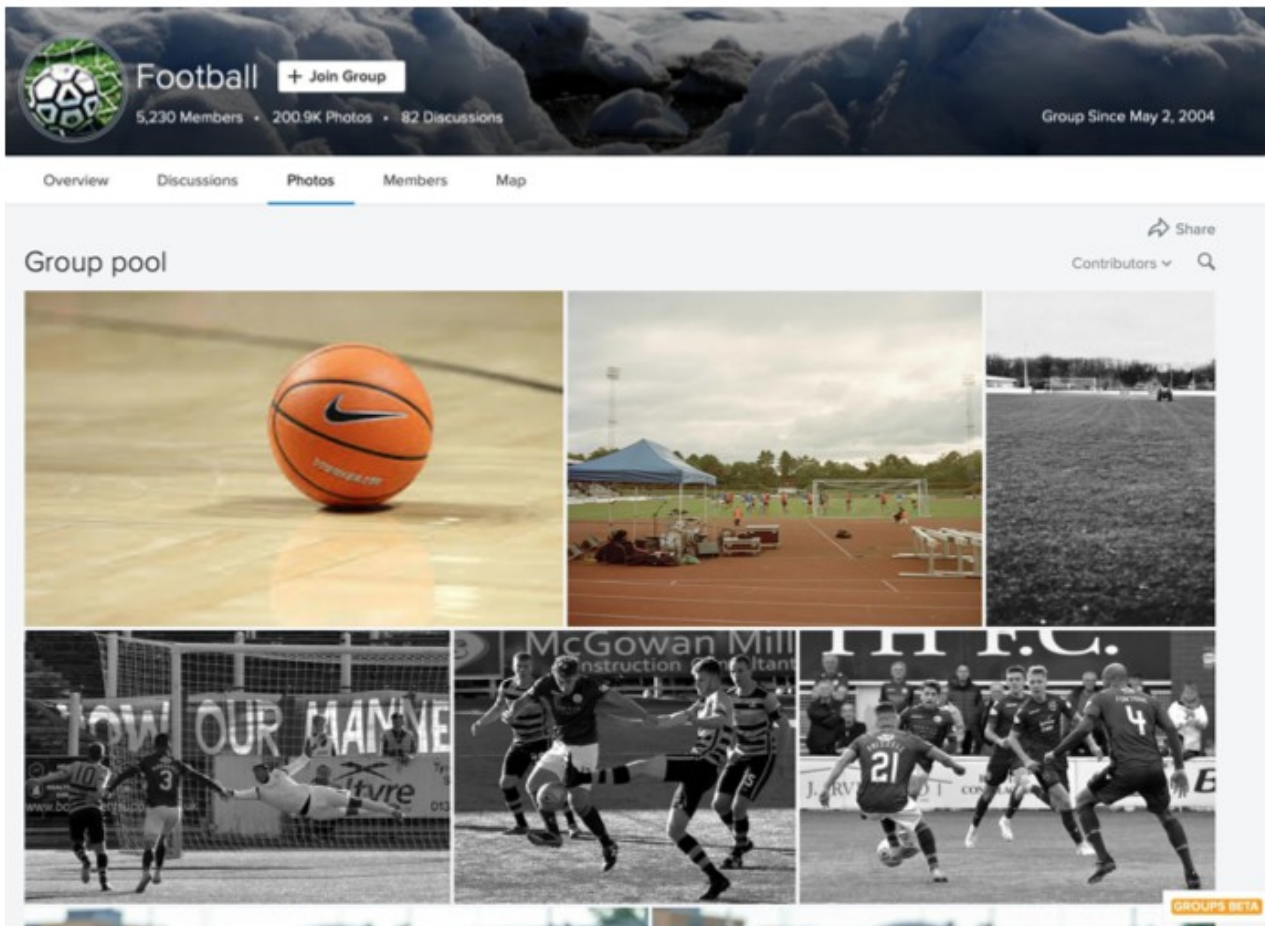
A good place to start your research is Flickr. If you have chosen 'Sport' as your subject for instance (and as an example if you are very keen on football) then look it up and click on 'Search groups'



A selection of different groups specialising in football photos will come up and when you find a group which you think may have images you like, click on the icon (do NOT click on the blue button +Join).



The images which other photographers who are members of that group have uploaded will now be displayed. Scrolling through all the thousands of images in the group will soon help you form your own judgement on which pictures you like and work for you. If you see particular pictures which you feel best capture the essence of what the photographer is trying to say about the subject, then make notes or try to remember how they did it and then apply the same techniques when you take your own photographs. This is not copying or 'plagiarism', it is just a way of improving your own skills by allowing a more experienced photographer to influence how you approach your subject.



Part of your research is to take lots of your own pictures, looking for different viewpoints and backgrounds, some from a distance which might set the scene, some close up focussing the viewer's attention on the main subject. This part of the Unit may take you several days while you explore your chosen theme but eventually you will have lots of pictures from which can edit down to your final choice of 8 for your portfolio. The first thing to do is to ignore all the shots which are out of focus, or badly exposed (too light or too dark) or you can't see the main subject. You will soon get the idea of what makes a 'good' picture, one in which the viewer can immediately see the subject and work out what the story is behind the image. To help you choose the final 8 photos for your portfolio, choose your very best quality pictures and bear in mind that they must all work together to tell the story about your chosen theme. When you have uploaded your final 8 images to your album, you should be prepared to share with the Assessor and other members of the Hub group why you choose those particular photos.

- Keep notes of your research and in particular the ideas you develop from looking at other photographers which have informed your own images
- Take as many images of your own as you need to give a wide selection from which to choose the final 8 images for your portfolio
- Make notes on why you have chosen your portfolio pictures, and the ideas which have gone into each one of your final images
- Make notes of your location and internet health and safety risk assessments

Health & Safety, Legal and Ethical considerations

Risk assessment

The advice for this Unit is the same as for Unit 2 when you are carrying out your research for your portfolio project. Remember that the internet carries its own risks of which you should be aware but if you follow some simple rules you will stay safe. There are three levels of safety in Settings in Flickr and on all other internet search engines such as Bing, Google, Yahoo etc. These Settings are 'Safe' which will only give results which anyone under-age can view, 'Moderate' which allow viewers to see sites which carry medium risk such as tobacco and alcohol products and 'Off' which will show violence and pornography. The default mode for search engines is generally 'Safe' or 'Moderate'.

Even websites which are deemed 'safe' by the search engine can display unwanted advertisements known as 'pop ups' or 'click bait' which will take you to another unsafe website.

DO NOT CLICK ON ANY WEBSITE YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT – EVEN IF A 'FRIEND' TELLS YOU IT IS SAFE.

When you are on location taking the photographs for your portfolio project, then you need to carry out the same risk assessment as you did for Unit 1.

Could there be any risk from -

- Animals (such as snakes, insects, dogs, anything else you can think of)? What will you do to avoid the dangers?
- People (authorities such as police, military, security guards)? What will you do to avoid the dangers?
- Vehicles (traffic accident - car, bus, boda boda, bicycle)? What will you do to avoid the dangers?
- Natural hazards (blocked road, broken path, thorns)? What will you do to avoid the dangers?

Legal and Ethical considerations

When doing your research you may download images to your device taken by other photographers but you must respect their Creative Commons License. In general this means that you can view another photographer's images but you must not repost them or share them in any other way. We covered the theory of the legal considerations in Unit 1 and the practical application when we uploaded the images under 'Owner settings license'.

For more details on Creative Commons Licensing see -

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Assessment & Feedback

Group and individual assessment must be continuous and concurrent with the delivery of the course and may be recorded for the purposes of future review. Feedback and guidance should be given contemporaneously. Particular emphasis should be placed on giving one-to-one and group guidance to the expected learning outcomes of this Unit -

The learner can

- apply visual language and compositional techniques to create high quality images
- select appropriate camera positions to communicate meaning and intent
- select appropriate subject matter to illustrate the theme
- produce a range of exploratory photographs using simple procedures and record evidence of the progression and development of ideas
- review the quality of the images and select the final 8 for their portfolio, and be prepared to evaluate and discuss their work with the assessor and the peer group
- carry out a risk assessment in using the camera on location and using the the internet, and put in place an effective plan to avoid or mitigate any risk to their own health and safety and that of others

On completion of the Unit the achievement of the learning outcomes of the group and each individual will be assessed and feedback given by the course leader and/or external assessor via appropriate channels (video link or written via email)

