

Activity:

Photo Voices - A Youth Photography Challenge Celebrating Rural Spirit



Photo Voices is all about visual storytelling. Yes, it about taking pictures; but more importantly it is about sharing perspectives, challenges, and strengths that make rural communities unique.

Photo Voices can be an opportunity for the youth of rural communities to become a storyteller in their area.

ACTIVITY GUIDE

Objective of Photo Voices : Capture local rural stories through the visual representation by young people. Represent the vibrant aspects of rural life through the lenses of youth photographers.

7 Steps:

- 1. Define a Theme:** Defining a theme can be challenging. What will engage young people? Inclusion, young people on a mission, intergenerational? It should focus on capturing authentic moments reflecting unique rural perspectives. Try to focus on human aspects, as this will engage young people taking pictures, the local community, and everyone who will watch the photos later.
- 2. Create Buzz:** Create a unique campaign that speaks to rural youth. Share the activity widely on social media that young people are active on (Instagram and TikTok). Make it simple to submit the photos online. Providing a webpage is unnecessary, as publishing photos and results on social media (e.g., Instagram, Snapchat or TikTok) is a great option. It's essential to find a way for those without internet access to participate (e.g., create an physical drop-off place).
- 3. Make it work:**

Provide clear instructions on what kind of stories you expect them to visualise. Organise photography workshops to equip the youth with the technical basics and ignite their creative spark. Provide them with instructions for taking the photos and postproduction (applications, suggestions). But make sure to share the importance of capturing the stories behind the pictures. Organise a storytelling workshop too.
- 4. Celebrate Together:**

Organise a community event to showcase the photos, where young people can present their work. Create an environment for discussions and reflections.
- 5. Reward the Effort**

Think about what prize would motivate young people to participate in the exhibition. It could be additional workshops on photography or storytelling.
- 6. Make It Last:**

Document the entire process and publish information on the project as a photo book or an online gallery.
- 7. Impact Beyond the Challenge:** Establish a sustainable initiative that continues to celebrate stories over time by creating annual challenges. Explore how the collected data could be leveraged for advocacy and community-driven initiatives.



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