

# Want to make photos like Michael A. McCoy?

Enjoy this short recap of his Create With Me video



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## Think about the details

Michael notes detail as one key aspect of documentary photography, but it's not just about close-ups. Detail can be found in expansive scenes, or in isolation. Picture a protest crowd full of impassioned individuals, or examine this image of a man's hand on a well-loved bible: both carry genuine interest for a viewer due to detail. It's all about finding what speaks to you as a creative, then filling the frame with it – large or small.



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## Lead with emotion

"Without emotion, your photograph has no soul," Michael notes. All images have some degree of emotion – the challenge lies in communicating it most poignantly. Color, composition, exposure, and other fundamentals shape our perception of emotion in an image, but first you have to take it all in. Michael believes that, whether or not we believe in a subject's cause, we must open ourselves to the emotions they are feeling – otherwise, the opportunity to document them will pass us by.



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## Consider your perspective

We all have a different perspective. In documentary work, it's important to stay truthful to the subject, but that doesn't mean giving up your own view of the world. Michael approaches every image with love and dignity – as illustrated by this image. The best documentary images make the viewer feel like they're right there in the moment, so try to translate your experience into the frame. Nobody can captivate an audience exactly like you can.

Closing date for entries to Michael's Challenge:  
11:59PM EST February 28, 2023

View Michael's  
Challenge

