

The Phantastic Photographer

Objective: To practice taking pictures in different perspectives

Materials:

- Digital camera
- Photo paper
- Computer access
- Printer
- Pictures with examples of different perspectives

10 minutes; Review the Basics

Tips to Take Better Pictures:

1. Move in closer: Each time you spot a subject, snap a shot and then move in closer for a better shot. Having your subject almost fill the frame helps your viewer understand and appreciate your photo. Also, details are often more interesting than an overall view. Keep moving in closer until you are sure the photo will successfully represent your subject.
2. Be quick: If it is at all possible that your subject may move, bolt, fly away, stop smiling, or just get tired of waiting for you to take the picture, shoot once right away. Practice getting quicker and quicker to the draw. Do not worry about taking too many pictures and do not wait until you're absolutely certain all the knobs and buttons are in their correct position.
3. Carefully compose: Strive to lead the eye along an interesting path through the photo, with the use of strong lines or patterns. Keep the horizon level; Crop out extra elements that you are not interested in (more on this is the next tip); Consciously place your subject where you think it most belongs rather than just accepting it wherever it happens to land in the photo; Play with perspective so that all lines show a pattern or lead the eye to your main subject; Work with the [Rule of Thirds](#).

4. Be selective: Discern what you are really interested in and center your efforts on getting the best photo of this subject, whether it a still life, your funny cat, your doggy, a friend, a family matter, a mood, a place or culture. Then be sure to keep anything that would distract out of the picture.
5. Focus on your subject: Practice shooting with different apertures and monitor the results afterwards to learn how depth-of-field affects your photo. You will find that a smaller depth-of-field (and smaller f-stop #) focuses all the attention upon your subject. This is great for taking a picture of your child, your dog, or your husband - subjects stand out against a blurry background. Likewise, you will find that a greater depth-of-field (bigger f-stop number) will make everything from here to eternity appear in focus. This will help make those landscapes fascinating and lovely.
6. Look at the light: It is good to see what kind of light you are working with. Which way are the shadows falling? Unless you want a silhouette effect, where your subject is black against an interesting background, it's generally best to shoot with the sun behind you. How is the light affecting your subject? Is the subject squinting? Is the light blazing directly and brightly upon your whole subject? This works well if you are in love with the bold colors of your subject. Side lighting, on the other hand, can add drama but can also cause extreme, hard-to-print contrasts. Lastly, indirect light can be used to make your subject glow soft and pretty
7. Watch the weather: Look outside and decide whether or not you are going to want to have the sky in your picture. If it's overcast, simply keep the sky out of your pictures as much as possible. This is usually the best way to avoid both muted tones in your subject and washed-out skies in your background. You might also find black and white pictures of an overcast day more pleasing than color. When the day is beautiful, go ahead and make the most of it.

15 minutes; Taking pictures of people.

What approach would you like to take when taking a picture?

General Approaches: A photojournalist approaches people trying to tell a story about individuals and groups. A documentary photographer generally adopts a

more formal and analytical approach to recording the subject. A fine art photographer might be more interested in a particular technique or aspect of the subject or way of working or idea related (or even peripheral) to it. A portraitist would be more concerned in bringing out the qualities of the individuals. Many photographers cover more than one aspect, but it helps to decide what your main interests are.

Posing for Photos: should you ask to take someone's photo?

Posing if you are in any doubt about whether you should be photographing someone, there is a simple rule. Ask. Most people are flattered to be asked, and respond positively, but be ready to accept it if they refuse. It often helps to talk to people and show an interest in them and what they are doing before you ask to take their picture. Communicating - even if mainly through gestures if you don't share a language - helps you and your subject to get more out of the meeting. Of course there are times and places where you don't need to ask - or where it would not be practicable to do so.

10 to 15 minutes; Take Pictures

Explore your environment, indoors and out and take pictures of things that interest you. Experiment, don't just take pictures of your friends or people but take pictures of objects that you enjoy... Have fun and be creative!

15 to 20 minutes; Print and Display

Choose a few of your favorite photos to print out. Then use scrap-booking materials to display your pictures in a creative and attractive way.

10 minutes; Share

Show your classmates the pictures you have taken and how you have decorated them. Explain what made you take certain pictures or why you chose a specific photo as your favorite. Sharing what you have done is a good way to let others know more about you and also can give you ideas for picture taking in the future.