

Total time:  
4 hours



Difficulty Level:  
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Composing with extreme minimal depth of field
- Creating sharp images at high magnification
- Capturing a moving subject

## CREATING SKILLFUL MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY



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Macro photography is not 'close-up' photography. It is defined as a photograph in which the size of a small subject is reproduced onto the negative or image sensor at 1/2 life size to 5X life size.

**KEY LESSON:** The simplest way to get to macro magnifications is with a macro lens. You can also use extension tubes, a reversal ring, or a bellows. Depth of field is crucial; do not use an aperture wider than f/16. Shutter speed is also crucial; use a tripod or increase ISO.

### EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**  
Any camera with macro capability
- **Any lens + lens hood**  
Macro lens or a lens with needed accessories
- **Filter**  
Extension tubes or reversal ring for low expense entry
- **Tripod + Bounce cards**  
Highly suggested
- **External off-camera flash** Helpful



**TIPS!** These settings can vary widely. This is a starting point.

Shooting Mode	A/Av	Metering mode	Center weighted
Shutter Speed	1/125 <sup>th</sup> or faster	Format	RAW + JPG
Aperture	f/11 to f/22	White balance	AWB AUTO
ISO	400 And adjust as necessary for shutter speed		
Lens	Use a tube, reversal ring, or filter if necessary. A bellows is not recommended for beginners		

### SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



E



### ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

1- Study the sample photographs:

- A-** Begin with objects that don't move. This will help you learn how to place focus, work with minimal depth of field (DOF), and achieving a sharp picture.
- B-** Proper focus placement is critical in macro photography. For subjects that don't move, use a tripod. Keep the f/stop closed down. However, do not go to the smallest f/stop. Use the aperture just before the smallest. If the smallest f/stop on your lens is f/22 – then use f/16.
- C-** Excellent macro photography typically examines common objects from an unusual angle. This is part of what makes these photos exciting. Be prepared to get onto the ground.
- D-** The use of a tripod is difficult with moving subjects. Instead, brace the camera tightly to your face and tuck the elbows in. Set your focus ring. Use your upper body as a focusing tool by gently moving it forward and backward. When the proper part of the subject comes into focus, freeze your body, and release the shutter.
- E-** Part of the fun in macro photography is to highlight common subjects very closely. Make sure that your shutter speed is fast enough to create a sharp picture. Pay attention to your lighting, especially backlighting. Use reflectors or electronic flash if necessary.

2- Setup your camera. Drive mode and focus mode are optional to preference.

### HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did your shot have a magnification of 1:1 or larger?
- Did you use the upper body technique to place focus?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you properly place your DOF window?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level:  
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting that depicts shape
- Composing a shot that pleases the client
- Creating an intimate and safe atmosphere

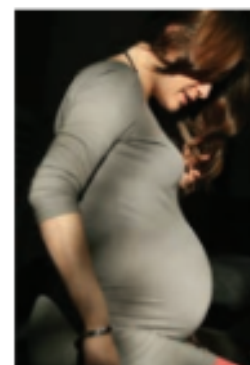
# CREATING MATERNITY PORTRAITS



Maternity portraits are a very personal, and intimate, interaction between the photographer and the subject. The purpose is to highlight the woman and her family. It's important to find out what the expectations are for the final portrait.

**KEY LESSON:** The key, to great maternity portraits, is to share the sense of caring and intimacy. Some mothers will wish to be alone in their portrait, and others will include a family member(s). Keep the lighting simple. A side or backlight scenario shows the gentle curves of her pregnant body. Study the sample photos for ideas.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

### - Camera

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, or compact camera

- **Any lens** from a normal view to a slight telephoto+ lens hood

### - Lighting

**Indoor:** Window or doorway

**Outdoors:** Natural light, Golden Hour or shade

### - Clothing & Props



## TIPS!

Shooting Mode **A / Av**

White balance **AWB** **AUTO**

Drive Mode  Single shot

Format **RAW** Additional .jpeg -optional-

Focus Mode **AF-S**

Metering  Center weighted

Shutter Speed **1/125<sup>th</sup> to 1/500<sup>th</sup>**

Focus Points Center grouping

ISO **400** adjust to facilitate shutter speed (minimum 125<sup>th</sup>)

Aperture **f/8 - f/11** -watch the depth of field-



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select a family. A good time for these portraits is between the 6th and 8th month – depending on how the mother's body changes.
- 2- Set up a portrait session time for indoor and outdoors.
- 3- Select clean backgrounds with a neutral or solitary color.
- 4- **Indoor:** Use a large window or patio door. You don't want direct sunlight- but a bright indirect light. Keep the background neutral. Use reflectors as necessary.  
**Outdoors:** Shoot during the Golden Hour. Use backlight or sidelight. Watch your exposure. Position subject to show the curves of the body. Study the sample photos.
- 5- Setup your camera according to the tips provided and then adjust as needed.
- 6- Focus on the bellybutton area, the woman's eyes, or the other person's eyes depending on the setup and framing.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did your depth of field cover the outline of the belly and/or anyone else included in the shot?
- Is your image sharp?
- Is your background neutral or a complimentary color?
- Did you capture an interesting expression on everyone pictured?
- Does your lighting accentuate body shape?
- Is your color accurate? (Look at the skin)

Total time:  
4-6 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

**Skill Points:**

- Creating a composition with only a few elements
- Using negative space, shape, and colors
- Simplification

# CREATING TRUE MINIMALIST PHOTOGRAPHY



Minimalism is a genre of art that emphasizes extreme simplification of form by the use of basic shapes and monochromatic palettes of primary colors, objectivity, and an anonymity of style. It's also sometimes referred to as 'Reductionism'.

**KEY LESSON:** Your Minimalist photo should contain a liberal use of negative space. It should also be a very simplistic composition that makes use of one to four colors- often times one is a primary color. Shape and repetition are common in Minimalist artwork.

## EQUIPMENT

### Camera

Any camera including a smartphone camera

### Lens + Lens hood

Any lens

### Post-processing software

Highly suggested

There are no set rules on how to set up your camera. Due to the creative nature of Minimalism.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



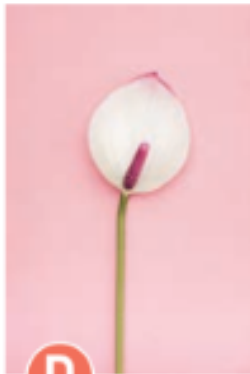
A



B



C



D



E



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

### 1- Study the sample photographs:

- A-** Minimalism is a fantastic genre when you wish to go beyond a 'beginning photographer's' eye. It requires no special equipment. It only requires that you open your mind to negative space, simple shapes, and minimal colors or tones.
  - B-** Minimalism is a very subjective art form- much like abstract. We won't go so far as to say that a photographer should not create Minimalism in post-production. However, as you learn the art, begin by creating the Minimalistic representation in-camera.
  - C-** The very best examples of Minimalism convey a message or a mood. Minimalist photography is all about simplification. It typically uses one subject, and an excessive use of negative space.
  - D-** Begin your exploration of Minimalism using a simple solid color background, a one or two-color scheme for the entire image, and a few simple shapes.
  - E-** As you begin to become comfortable with the idea of composing in a Minimalist fashion, you can then begin to include other composition elements such as spot color, focal points, and leading lines. However, an ample amount of negative space is almost always included.
- 2- Begin the 1st half of your shoot by organizing Minimalist shots with chosen objects and backgrounds (think of pictures A & D). For the 2nd half of your shoot go out and find Minimalist compositions that already exist (think of pictures C & E).
- 3- Explore your chosen subjects carefully: study negative space, shape, and color. The key, to this Action Assignment, is to change your visual perception of composition and subject matter.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Does your shot have a pleasing composition? Is your subject primarily composed of color and shape?
- Did you make liberal use of negative space? Did you simplify?

Total time:  
2 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

#### Skill Points:

- Photographing celestial bodies
- Creating visual interest in a night shot
- Working with slow shutter speeds
- Focusing on a distant object

# CREATING MOONSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS



**KEY LESSON:** Photographing the Moon is tricky. It's much brighter than one would realize. It's also moving at a rapid pace. Finally, it can be buried in a massive sea of black sky if you don't plan your shot correctly. Your camera must be on a tripod. A shutter release is optional, but highly recommended.

## EQUIPMENT

### - Camera

Any DSLR or mirrorless, and some compact cameras

### - Lens + Lens hood

Depending on desired effect from 50mm to 400mm

### - Tripod

Sturdy with a good solid head

### - App software: Photo Pills

### - Shutter release: Wired or wireless



#### TIPS!

These settings can vary widely. This is a starting point.

Shooting Mode	Manual
ISO	400
Aperture	f/8
Shutter Speed	1/30th
Drive Mode	Single shot
White balance	AWB AUTO
Format	RAW

Use Live View if possible, and the Magnify function – focusing on the Moon is quite tricky. (You cannot just set the lens focus ring to 'infinity')

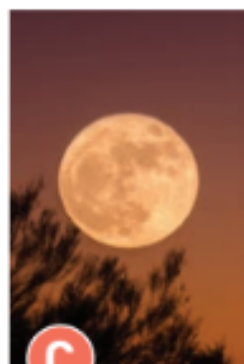
## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



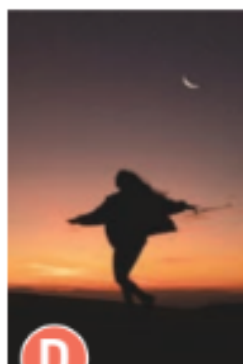
A



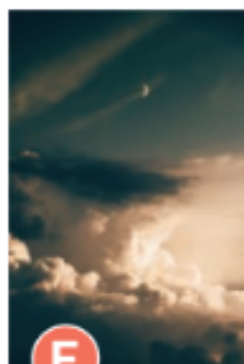
B



C



D



E



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

### 1- Study the sample photographs:

- A-** Detailed Moon photography can only be made with longer telephoto lenses (300mm – 600mm), note: it is difficult to eliminate camera shake at these magnifications.
- B-** Get a shot like this with a 100mm-200mm lens. Great for including foreground interest
- C-** It is possible, yet difficult, to include foreground in a super telephoto (300mm-600mm) shot.
- D-** When working with normal focal length lenses include some foreground interest, and then use the Moon as a focal point.
- E-** Be ready when the Moon presents itself, such as this shot taken from an airplane.

### 2- Set up your photography shoot for the next full moon phase. Set your shoot time to begin at dusk. It works best if the sky hasn't completely darkened.

### 3- Include foreground interest if needed. Shoot in the camera raw file format.

**TIPS:** Shoot a test picture. Review it. Adjust exposure as necessary. Do not lower the shutter speed below 1/30<sup>th</sup> and do not close the aperture further than f/16. In post-production use the Clarity function to add contrast to the Moon. You can photograph other phases of the Moon cycle- but start with a full Moon.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly focus the Moon or foreground object?
- Did you capture some light in the sky? (not complete black unless using a super telephoto for a close up)
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: MOON PHOTOGRAPHY

Total time:  
1-2 hours



■■■■■■■■□□□□  
Difficulty Level: Normal

**Skill Points:**

- Portrait lighting
- Working with a newborn
- Creating a mood through props & lighting



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# CREATING PORTRAITS OF NEWBORNS

The newborn age begins at birth and ends at two months. This type of portrait typically concentrates on the face. Props can add a 'cuteness factor', but don't go crazy, or it will detract from the child's presence.

**KEY LESSON:** On newborn portraiture, the child is typically lying down, or being held by a parent or sibling. If a sibling is holding the child have the parents take responsibility. Simple props and coordinated clothing works best. Lighting options are open. Study the sample photographs.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

**- Camera**

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, or compact camera

**- Lens + lens hood**

50mm - 135mm

**- Lighting**

Window light, occasionally outdoor natural light, and large (48in x 48in) white and silver bounce cards

**- Clothing & Props**



## TIPS!

Shooting Mode **A / Av**

Aperture **f/5.6**

Drive Mode  Low speed burst

White balance **AWB**  **AUTO**

Focus Mode **AF-S**

Format **RAW + JPG**

Shutter Speed **1/125th to 1/250th**

Metering  Center weighted

ISO **400** adjust to facilitate shutter speed

Focus Points Center grouping



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- 1- Select a model. Select a clean background with a neutral or solitary color, and a few simple props and clothing. Create a set of portraits trying different support methods and props:
  - Laying down and shooting down, or laying down on the side, and shooting from eye level
  - Parental support newborn over the shoulder
  - Propping up (if possible – closer to 2 months)
- 2- Use a window indoors with bright indirect light for your main light and the bounce cards to lighten the shadow side (if needed).
- 3- Setup your camera following the tips, and adjust as needed.
- 4- Check the child's skin for cradle cap or loose skin, which is common in newborns. Experiment with changing your lighting. It's great to practice lighting on newborns, because they don't move as much. Don't forget to position their hands.

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes?
- Did you frame the shot tight enough?
- Did you create enough depth of field?
- Is your color accurate?
- Is the lighting pleasing and can you see all of the newborn's features?
- Did you position the hands?
- Did you use a complimentary prop or clothing?
- Did you experiment with the lighting?

Total time:  
2-5 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

**Skill Points:**

- Photographing at night using available light
- Using moving light sources
- Using long exposures
- Mixing light sources

# HOW TO SHOOT GORGEOUS NIGHT SHOTS



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The real expertise in night imaging is selecting an appropriate subject and determining the proper exposure.

We will concentrate on 4 types of night photography: The cityscape, the motion blur, the artificial light boost, and the dusk mix shot.

**KEY LESSON:** Night photography requires a few extra pieces of equipment. If there is any wind, you might want to attach a 5 to 10 lb. weight to the tripod to eliminate vibration. Always bring a flashlight. Always shoot in manual mode. Always use manual focusing.

## EQUIPMENT

- **Camera:** Any camera with a "Bulb" setting
- **Lens:** Wide-angle to moderate telephoto (14mm-100mm)
- **Tripod & Remote Shutter Release:** Necessary, must be sturdy
- **Sandbag:** Recommended
- **Misc:** Flashlight, non-reflective black card, masking tape



## TIPS!

Shooting Mode	Manual
Focus mode	Manual
Metering mode	Center-weighted
ISO	As low as possible; Start with 400

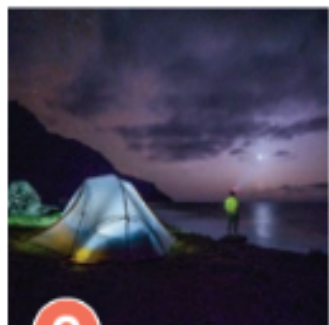
SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

1- Study the sample photographs - from left to right:

- A-** Look for plenty of artificial lighting. Plan on shooting as soon as the Sun is set until 1.5 hours after sunset. You want some light, and color, left in the sky. Set the white balance to "Auto". **Tip:** Always bring a black card. You can stop the exposure by holding it in front of the lens should something interrupt like the headlights of a car. Simply remove the card when the interruption is over and continue the exposure.
- B-** Find a location that mixes traffic with city lights. Set your starting exposure time for 10 seconds and the ISO at 400. Set the aperture as necessary. Vary the shutter speed to adjust exposure first before changing the ISO. Do not go above ISO 1600. Expose for the highlights. **Tip:** Experiment with shutter speeds between 1/2 second to 15 seconds. Use a wide-angle lens.
- C-** This shot should be taken from 1 hour after sunset until you're done. Expose for the night shot, and then use artificial lights to highlight subjects within your composition. Use ISO 800 to begin, and your widest aperture. **Tip:** Try different artificial light sources. Try different white balance settings.
- D-** A dusk/night mix shot requires you to shoot an image right at sunset, and then tape your black card over the lens. At some point after sunset, fire your second shot by removing the card to expose for the night shot. Set your ISO to 400 and the aperture to the widest setting. Experiment with exposure time. **Tip:** Practice covering and uncovering the lens without affecting the camera exposure. Once the card covers the lens- exposure stops. Tape it in place. In the reverse, remove the tape, let the camera settle, and remove the card from in front of the lens.

2- For all four shots, practice manual focusing in the dark.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Are your shots sharp? Focused? Free of camera shake? Does the cityscape have some color in the sky?
- Did you capture an accurate exposure in your motion blur?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting, exposure and framing
- Capturing expressions
- Timing and Patience

# CREATING LOVING PET PORTRAITS



Pet portrait photography requires patience; equipment knowledge, exposure knowledge, basic lighting knowledge, and it wouldn't hurt to know a little bit about animal behavior as well.

**KEY LESSON:** There are a few key considerations in pet portraiture. You may have to contain the pet based upon their behavior. The best shots often happen when you get down to their level. Focus on the eyes, and frame them up close. Capture interaction with humans when appropriate.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
- **Lens + lens hood**  
50mm lens, or a zoom lens anywhere between 18-300mm
- **White & silver bounce cards**  
Window light, outdoor natural light, and large bounce cards
- **Helper + Treats and toys**



## TIPS!

Shooting Mode	M or A / Av	Metering	<input type="checkbox"/> Center weighted
Drive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> High speed burst	White balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB <input type="checkbox"/> AUTO
ISO	400 then adjust	Format	RAW + JPG
Shutter Speed	1/250th & faster (telephoto) 1/125th (normal lenses)	Focus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center grouping
Focus	AF-S or AF-C	Aperture	f/5.6 - f/11



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select two pets, one pet for indoors and one for outdoors.
- 2- **Indoor pet photograph:**
  - Pick a shooting location with a bright window & indirect light.
  - Elevate the pet using a table or chair so that the window light is even with their entire body.
  - Use a large white or silver bounce card (available at any art supply store) to bounce light back into the shadows.
  - Get the attention of the pet toward the camera with toys or treats (Use a helper)
- 3- **Outdoor pet photograph:**
  - Photograph on a lightly bright overcast day or in the shade.
  - Lower the camera down to the pet's level
  - Set up the silver bounce cards on either side of the pet
  - Get the attention of the pet toward the camera with toys or treats (Use a helper).

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Is your background neutral and free of distracting objects?
- Did you capture an interesting expression, action, or interaction with the pet?
- Is your color accurate?

Total time:  
2-8 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

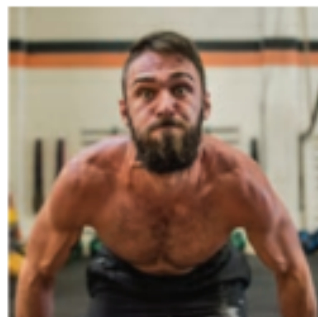
- Timing
- Planning
- Exposure
- Focusing

## CREATING DYNAMIC SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Sports photography is demanding. You need excellent timing to capture peak action. It helps to have an understanding of the sport, and a thorough knowledge of your camera equipment is imperative.

**KEY LESSON:** Practice your sense of timing and event knowledge. Look for the unusual angle, framing, and clean background. Be aware of your shutter speed. Play with freezing and blurring movement.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



### EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
- **Telephoto lens + lens hood**  
200mm or longer with Image stabilization (zoom lens a plus)
- **Memory cards**  
With high-speed write
- **Monopod** (optional)
- **Electronic flash** (optional)  
For sports portraits or setup shots only – no live action



### TIPS!

	Fast-Paced Sports	Slow-Paced Sports
Shooting Mode	M or S / Tv	M or A / Av
Drive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> High speed burst	<input type="checkbox"/> High speed burst
ISO	800 then adjust	800 then adjust
Shutter Speed	1/1000 <sup>th</sup> or faster	1/1000 <sup>th</sup> down to 1/125 <sup>th</sup>
White balance	<b>AWB</b> <b>AUTO</b>	<b>AWB</b> <b>AUTO</b>
Focus Points	 Maximum #	 Center grouping
Format	High Quality .Jpg - for faster buffering (RAW preferable)	
Metering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wider shots	<input type="checkbox"/> mid-distance <input type="checkbox"/> close-ups



### ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Review the sample photographs. Start with a sport that you have an understanding of the game and rules.
- 2- Setup your shoot time for bright light. Avoid low light while learning sports photography.
- 3- Set your camera up on the monopod (if applicable).
- 4- As the action begins watch for interesting shapes, key moments of action and emotion, leading lines toward the action, interaction between players or coaches. Stay tight with your framing. If the sport uses a ball, include it in the action whenever possible.
- 5- Work on the timing of your shutter release. **Capture peak action, and the players with their eyes open!**
- 6- For action passing by perpendicular to you, you will need a faster shutter speed. For action coming toward you – you can use a slightly slower shutter speed.
- 7- Try to tell the 'story' of this sport with as few elements as possible.

### HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you capture a unique storytelling expression?
- Did the lighting provide your image with good color saturation, highlights, and shadows? Are colors accurate?
- Is your image sharp where it's supposed to be, and blurry where it could be to imply motion?
- Is your background clean of visual obstructions?
- Does your image imply motion and emotion?

Total time:  
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level: Easy

**Skill Points:**

- Composition
- Lighting
- Mastering basic camera functions

# CREATING STILL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHS



Themes surrounding still life art provoke thought and reflection in a viewer. The order of arrangement of the objects within the still life (the composition) as well as the lighting and color scheme are meant to touch the emotions.

**KEY LESSON:** Still life is a genre of photography that most often depicts all 7 formal elements of art including: line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern, color, and composition.

## EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**  
With option to use manual shooting mode.
- **Lens**  
Close focusing down to at least 40cm (17 inches)
- **Light bounce cards**  
of varying sizes in white & silver
- **Window & Table**  
with indirect light and no window shade
- **Remote camera**  
release & tripod (optional, but highly recommended)

## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Review sample photographs, gather food items, flowers, and kitchen props.
- 2- Position your table next to the window and slightly to one side of it. This creates a sidelight that is also slightly coming from the front.
- 3- Set up your still life composition on your table.
- 4- Concentrate on the 7 formal elements of art as discussed in the theory section. Don't be afraid to copy an existing photograph.
- 5- Use the positioning and window light to create a mood and story. Use the bounce cards, if necessary, to fill in deep shadows.
- 6- Use the ISO setting, color balance, and chosen aperture to create a technically proficient image that helps to convey your story.
- 7- This is a still subject; therefore shutter speed is a moot point other than the prevention of camera shake.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Do your photographs convey the intended message to others? Ask around. Share your work.
- Did you properly expose for the lighting, and did you create shadows that gave your still life photograph dimension without becoming solid black areas?
- Does the color balance of your still life photograph look appealing and help reveal your intended story?
- Does the composition lead the viewer's eyes through the still life, and did you create a stopping point within the composition for a final resting spot?

Total time:  
2-8 hours



Difficulty Level:  
Challenging

Skill Points:

- Capturing a story element
- Difficult lighting
- Anticipating action
- Composition on the fly

## CREATING CANDID STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



Street photography is an art form that combines candid photography with un-meditated, chance encounters, and random incidents. People are usually included- but not always.

**KEY LESSON:** Street photography depicts a story. While the moment may be random, you should select a location first, and then wait for the storytelling moment to occur.

### SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



### EQUIPMENT

#### - Camera

Smaller cameras are an advantage. Smartphones work well as they attract less attention

#### - Lens + lens hood

A wide-angle fixed lens or a wide-angle to normal zoom lens



### TIPS!

Shooting Mode	A / Av	Aperture	f/5.6 and adjust
Drive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> Single shot	White balance	AWB AUTO
ISO	400 then adjust	Format	RAW + JPG optional
Shutter Speed	1/60th & faster	Focus	 Center grouping
Focus Mode	AF-S		



### ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Choose a street location. Pick three or four interesting backgrounds along your street to photograph. Limit yourself to a single street, and use an area no longer than three city blocks: Look for storytelling signage, events, alleyways, architecture, and lighting.
- 2- Begin your shoot by hanging around one of your three chosen spots. Watch for interesting activity as people pass through your spot. Shoot when inspired.
- 3- Photograph for about 20 minutes before you rotate to the next spot. Spend at least two hours shooting at each spot.
- 4- Concentrate on capturing your subjects with peak action, at a close range, and with interesting light and emotion.

### HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you capture peak action?
- Did the action, background, and subject tell a story?
- Did you get close to your subject?
- Did you capture an interesting expression?
- Did you place your maximum focus on the correct spot? (Usually the subject's face)
- Is your lighting interesting?

Total time:  
9-12 hours



Difficulty Level:  
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Engaging strangers
- Anticipating action & emotion
- Fast exposure & focus
- Composing on the fly

## CREATING STREET PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS



Street portrait photography differs from candid street photography. It places the viewer interest on a single person, even though that person may be in a crowd. You may or may not engage with the subject.

**KEY LESSON:** Street portraits convey a message about the subject, through facial expression, body language, clothing, situation or location. Street portraits focus on the person rather than the surroundings.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



### EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**

Smaller cameras are an advantage. Smartphones work well as they attract less attention

- **Lens + lens hood**

35mm to 80mm range - f/2.8 or wider aperture is an advantage

- **Electronic Flash** (optional)

For a gritty effect



### TIPS!

Shooting Mode	A / Av	Aperture	f/5.6 or wider
Drive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> Single shot	White balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB <input type="checkbox"/> AUTO
ISO	400 then adjust	Format	RAW + JPG optional
Shutter Speed	1/125th & faster	Focus	Center grouping
Focus Mode	AF-S	Metering	<input type="checkbox"/> Center weighted



### ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Pick a busy street location, a form of public transportation, and a crowded event. Spend 2-4 hours, at each location, shooting street portraits. Try some shots candidly and engage the subject for others. **\*Make these shots tell the viewer something about the person - and not just the situation.**
- 2- Setup your camera, and then warm up by capturing candid portraits first, in each location. Remember to 'get close' and reveal some aspect of the subject.
- 3- After you've warmed up, begin to ask permission and engage your subject while taking their portrait. Use these exact words, **"May I create your portrait?"** Don't say shoot, or take, as these words invoke mistrust. Compliment them. Tell them what you find interesting about them.
- 4- Place the critical focus on the eyes.

### HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you capture an emotional expression or storytelling body language?
- Did you stay close to your subject?
- Did you place your critical focus on the eyes?
- Is your color accurate?
- Is your lighting interesting?
- What could you have done to improve your efforts?

Total time:  
2-4 hours per theme



Difficulty Level: Easy

#### Skill Points:

- Composing to establish a location
- Working with people
- Creating compositions that creates interest

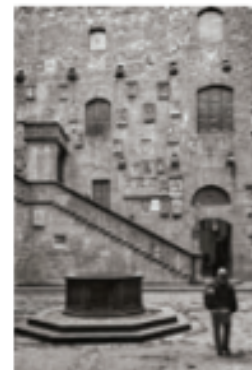
# CREATING MEANINGFUL TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHS



Travel photography is a genre that should accomplish two tasks. Visually tell a viewer where the picture is located, and entice a viewer to 'go there' in their mind.

**KEY LESSON:** To establish the place in a travel photograph look for meaningful architecture, clothing, food, iconic landscapes, activities, and interesting people. Excellent tools of composition for travel photography includes, spot color, leading lines, camera POV, and frames. Study the sample photographs.

## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**  
Any camera including a smartphone
- **Lens + lens hood**  
Any lens – but typically you want a moderate wide-angle to a moderate telephoto
- **Tripod**  
Optional – Monopod is easier to travel with
- **Notepad**  
Take notes and be sure to record location  
Metadata on the camera



Shooting Mode	A / Av	Drive Mode	Single shot
Shutter Speed	1/60th + for wide-angle to normal lenses 1/200th + for moderate telephoto lenses		
Aperture	f/5.6 - f/16 depending on desired depth of field		
White balance	AWB AUTO	Format	RAW JPG optional
Metering	Matrix / Evaluative		
Focus points	All focus points		
ISO	400 (and adjust to facilitate shutter speed)		



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs before traveling. Self-assign themes before traveling, for example – traveling to Rome – set aside several hours to photograph the Trevi Fountain.
- 2- Explore your chosen themes carefully and from all angles. Whenever possible use a person and/or architectural elements in your shots. Plan on 2 to 4 hours per theme- Shoot early or late in the day when the sun is low. Go back more than once if you can. Photograph some people candidly, but force yourself to ask locals if you can include them in your travel photograph.
- 3- Arrive on the scene:
  - Composition, is the location being conveyed?
  - Is there visual interest through people, architecture, clothing, signage, food, etc.?
  - Is the background clear of visual snags? Evaluate the light for color balance.
  - Change lens focal lengths and try different camera perspectives- high and low

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Does your image convey the location?
- Does your shot generate visual excitement?
- Is your color accurate?
- Is your lighting pleasing?
- Is your background free of eye snags?

Total time:  
3 hours



Difficulty Level: Very easy

**Skill Points:**

- Basic composition with a limited camera POV
- Working with the environment
- Finding interesting light
- Creating sharp photos

# CREATING INSPIRING WATERSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS



This genre is similar to landscape photography, except for two very important points. Unless you have a boat, your camera point of view will be limited to the shoreline, and also, water is not a static subject.

**KEY LESSON:** Create your waterscape images within 1 hour of sunset (Shoot from before to after). Focus on these tools of composition: leading lines, layering, and a focal point. Try to include motion, reflections, and vibrant color to enhance your scene.

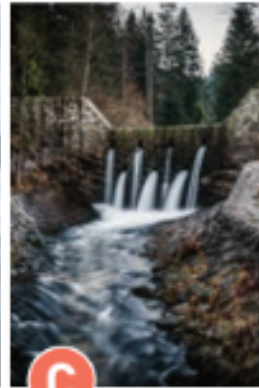
SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



E

- EQUIPMENT**
- **Camera** Any camera including a smartphone
  - **Lens + Lens Hood** Any lens, but typically you want a wide-angle to a moderate telephoto
  - **Tripod + Shutter release** Optional (but highly suggested for slow shutter speed options)
  - **Filters:** Graduated ND filter and a polarizing filter (Optional)



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs:
  - A- Sunset (or sunrise) provides dramatic light and color- enhance color saturation in post-production.
  - B- The composition tool of layering can give your waterscape image the perception of depth.
  - C- A slower shutter speed can create interest when the lighting is poor.
  - D- Leading lines help provide depth perception – a graduated filter can bring some color and interest back to the sky.
  - E- In waterscape photography, the time of day is of utmost importance.
- 2- Self-assign a waterscape location. Set your shoot time to begin 1.5 hours before sunset, and plan to shoot through 1.5 hours after sunset. Study your location for the recommended composition tips (come up with several camera POV options)
- 3- Setup your camera with these general tips:
  - Shooting Mode:** Manual or Shutter priority (water motion blurred or sharp?) / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **ISO:** 200 (adjust to facilitate shutter speed) / **Aperture:** f/5.6 - f/16 depending on the desired depth of field / **Focus Points:** All / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Metering:** Matrix/Evaluative / **Shutter Speed:** depending on blurred / **White balance:** Auto / **Focus Mode:** Single shot. Focus on foreground objects, if none, focus on the horizon line.
- 5- In post-production pay special attention to the Clarity, Vibrance, & Color saturation settings

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you compose using the tools in the Key Lesson? Did you experiment with the water movement?
- Does your image convey the location with beauty & story?

Total time:  
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

#### Skill Points:

- Properly identifying a subject
- Composition
- Proper exposure

# HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH WINDOWS & DOORS



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Windows and doors are a favorite subject for many photographers. Not only do they have their own beauty, but they also create strong mood by creating distinct frames.

**KEY LESSON:** When photographing a window or door, ask yourself the following. "Is the window or door my subject, or is it a lead-in/frame for my subject. This is a common mistake- not establishing the purpose. If the window or door is the subject, this will dictate how you compose your shot."

## EQUIPMENT

### Camera

Any camera including a smartphone camera

### Lens + Lens hood

Any lens

### Post-processing software

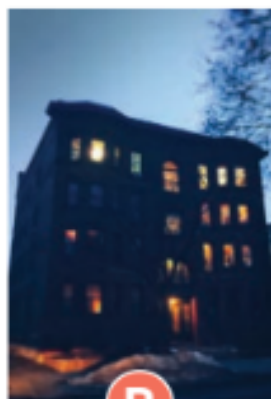
Mobile or desktop

**Camera setup:** Camera functions are less important here. Use the settings that you are comfortable with.

## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



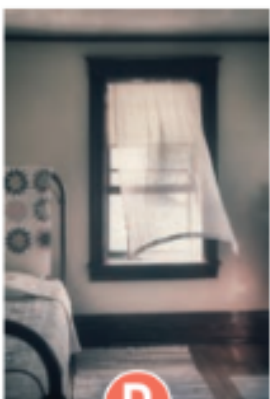
A



B



C



D



E



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs - from left to right:
  - A- This is a properly composed 'door shot' where the entire composition works to push the viewer's eyes toward the door, which is the subject.
  - B- This is a complex window and door photograph- where the windows and door as a group form the subject of the photograph. The brightest window in the upper left becomes a 'focal point' due to its contrast relative to the rest of the picture.
  - C- This door shot is right on the edge of being ill-composed. It's clear that the doorway is the intended final resting spot for the composition. However, the visual interest isn't very strong.
  - D- In this example the window gains the strength of being the subject through the 'motion' of the blowing window curtain.
  - E- This is a very complex window photograph. At first glance, it may appear as though the window is strictly a frame. However, it isn't really framing much of anything substantial. The composition in this shot is reliant on the repetition of shape. The circular window, the circular table, and the circular bar outside of the window reinforce the window as the subject.
- 2- Look for interesting windows and doors. Also take into account what surrounds them. Try to use the environment to highlight the window or door. Study the example photos.
- 3- This lesson is about developing an artist's eye for a specific type of image. Continue practicing over time.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Does your image highlight the window or door as the subject?
- Did you make use of the surrounding environment?

Total time:  
4-8 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

**Skill Points:**

- Dealing with obstructions
- Difficult lighting
- Working within boundaries
- Timing and patience

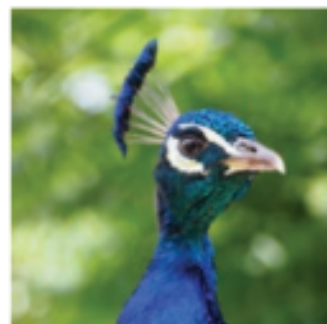
# CREATING DRAMATIC ZOO PHOTOGRAPHS



Zoo photography presents very specific problems that you will need to overcome: wire fencing, glass reflections, limited mobility, crowds, low light levels, or possible highly contrasting light levels, and an unpleasant or unrealistic background.

**KEY LESSON:** Zoo photography requires planning; the time of day and weather are important factors. Evaluate the habits and activity times for the animals that you wish to photograph. Practice patience. Learn the zoo rules. Ask a zookeeper; you may get special access.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

**- Camera**

Any camera with a longer focal length lens – higher ISO capability a plus

**- Lens + lens hood**

200mm telephoto lens, or a zoom lens of 18-300mm, or a fixed lens of 5-12X

**- Monopod with ball head** (optional)

**- Flash** (optional) Check zoo rules



### TIPS!

Shooting Mode **M** or **A / Av**

Aperture **f/5.6** or wider

Drive Mode High speed burst

White balance **AWB** **AUTO**

ISO **800** then adjust

Format **RAW** + **JPG** optional

Focus Mode **AF-S**

Metering

Mid-distance

Shutter Speed **1/300th** Telephoto

**1/125th** Wider lenses

Wider shots & closeups



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Pick two animals. Limit yourself to two. Follow the key lesson and research your chosen animals. When are they most active? What type of enclosure are they in? When will there be fewer crowds? (Times/days of week).
- 2- Plan on a minimum of 4 hours, 2 hours for each animal.
- 3- Arrive on the scene and choose your camera position – **Consider:** Direction of the light. Background. If shooting through wire fencing keep the camera right up to the fence. Try to position the camera in the shadows. If shooting through glass, position the camera close and angled at a 45-degree angle to the glass to prevent reflections.
- 4- Check Exposure settings. Is your shutter speed fast enough? If not adjust it to a higher number.
  - Keep your aperture wider than f/5.6 – the wider the better
- 5- Always be alert to the following as you move: Focus placement on the eyes, backlighting, objects in the background, visible fencing or reflections, animal expressions or movement.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? If so, is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture an interesting expression, action, or interaction with the animal?

Total time:  
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level:  
Challenging

**Skill Points:**

- Composing in macro
- Using backlighting
- Working with shallow depth of field
- Environmental challenges

# CREATING STUNNING FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHS



Flower photography requires a keen eye to details.

It also works best with some specialized gear. However, you can start with a set up as simple as your smartphone camera.

**KEY LESSON:** A primary concern to great flower photography is composition. These are the main composition tools in flower photography: camera position (POV), lines within the flower itself, a flower juxtaposed against other flowers or a background, depth of field, a focal point, and backlighting. Study the sample photographs.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**  
Any camera including a smartphone camera
- **Lens + lens hood**  
Any close focusing or macro lens.
- **Filters**  
Close focusing filters allow any lens to focus closer
- **Tripod + Field Support Clamp** <Internet research  
Optional but highly suggested.
- **Flash**  
Optional but comes in handy as a fill light
- **Bounce Cards**  
Can be used in lieu of a flash and as a windbreak



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs: look for eye snags surrounding the flower (see red arrow in photo A). Study the flower (A) closely and determine the composition based upon the Key Lesson and the sample photographs.
- 2- The wind is your enemy. Shoot on a calm day or create a windbreak. Use the field support clamp. Shoot early or late in the day when the sun is low. There is usually less wind in the morning.
- 3- Setup your camera with these general tips: **Shooting Mode:** Manual or Aperture priority  
**Drive Mode:** Single shot / **ISO:** 800 and adjust as needed to facilitate a proper shutter speed / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th / **Focus Points:** Single center focus point for extreme close ups and all the focus points for wider group shots / **Metering:** Matrix/Evaluative / **Focus mode:** Single shot / **Aperture:** from f/5.6 to f/16 depending on the desired depth of field / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / \* If using backlight, use the electronic flash for fill-flash or front fill bounce cards
- 4- Choose your camera position – Consider: Composition, how close you can focus, backlight or front fill light use, wind , etc.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus for the composition?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you compose using the tools in the Key Lesson?
- Did you frame the shot tight enough?
- Did you make use of the shape or color of the flower or surrounding flowers?

Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting
- Working with children
- Quick exposure setting
- Timing & Patience

# CREATING PORTRAITS OF CHILDREN



Portrait photography of children requires a balanced skillset. Equipment & lighting knowledge is important, but so is the understanding of a child's mind.

**KEY LESSON:** When starting out in child portraiture, keep things simple. Concentrate on one of two types of shots: either a simple head & shoulders shot (with a fantastic expression), or an activity shot- where the child is engaged with props. Children won't wait for you. Engage them as if it's playtime. Capture the child's unique features, such as messy hair or big eyes.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



EQUIPMENT



**Camera**  
Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, compact or smartphone



**Lens + Hood**  
Headshot -> 50mm - 135mm  
½ Body -> 28mm - 70mm



**Lighting**  
Window light, outdoor natural light, electronic flash, large bounce cards.



**Props & clothing**  
Use props to engage the child in playtime.



**ACTION ASSIGNMENT!**

- 1- Select a model. Create one portrait of the model indoors and the other outdoors.
- 2- Select a clean background with a neutral or solitary color and a few simple props and clothing.
- 3- **Indoor:** Use a window with indirect bright light for your main light and the bounce cards to lighten the shadow side. **Outdoors:** Shoot during the Golden Hour. Place the brightest light behind the child. Use the bounce cards or electronic flash to light the face. As the Sun sets, use the natural light from the Sun as the main light. Experiment with placing the child in the shade.
- 4- Setup your camera with these general tips: **ISO:** 400 (then adjust as needed) / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Focus Points:** Center grouping / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **Focus mode:** If the child is actively moving, switch to continuous focusing mode / **Metering:** Center-weighted / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th telephoto - 1/125th normal to wide-angle lenses / **Shooting Mode:** Aperture priority / **Aperture:** From wide open to f/5.6 -Make sure the depth of field covers the eyes / **White balance:** Auto
- 5- Study sample photographs. If the child becomes agitated, create playtime.

**HOW DID YOU DO?**

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture interesting expressions? If so, does your portrait tell a story about the child?
- Is the lighting pleasing and can you see all of the child's features? Did you make use of props?

Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

#### Skill Points:

- Achieving masculine lighting on the face
- Proper framing
- Capturing expression



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# CREATING PORTRAITS OF MEN

Portrait photography of men is a great way to begin learning portraiture. Male portraits tend to be more forgiving with lighting and posing. There are two main considerations in male portraiture: physique and masculinity.

**KEY LESSON:** It's acceptable to have shadowing across the male face, as long as it looks natural. Watch for a double chin when posing. Keep the shoulders back, chest out, and tummy in. Side lighting is preferable. Keep the lens of the camera positioned at or just below the eyes.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT



### Camera

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, compact or smartphone



### Lens + Hood

Headshot: 85mm - 200mm  
½ Body: 35mm - 100mm



### Lighting

Window light, outdoor natural light, electronic flash, large bounce cards.



### Props & clothing

Simple clothes and props that represent the model.



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select a model. Set up a portrait session indoors and another session outdoors. Select clean backgrounds with a neutral or solitary color.
- 2- **Indoor:** use a window for lighting. Use side lighting. (Optional bounce cards if necessary).  
**Outdoors:** shoot during the Golden Hour. Experiment by using sidelight and backlighting along with bounce cards.
- 3- Keep the chin slightly elevated to eliminate a double chin. Keep the camera slightly below eye level for a masculine pose. Pose the arms to give a sense of masculinity (study the examples).
- 4- Setup your camera with these general tips: **ISO:** 400 (then adjust as needed) / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Focus Points:** Center grouping / **Drive Mode:** Single shot  
**Metering:** Center-weighted / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th telephoto - 1/125th wider lenses  
**Shooting Mode:** Manual or Aperture priority / **Aperture:** From wide open to f/5.6 -Make sure the depth of field covers the eyes / **White balance:** Auto
- 5- Use the bounce cards as needed. Remember deeper shadowing on men is acceptable and often desirable.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture an interesting and pleasant expression? • Did you frame the shot tight enough?
- Did you use side lighting?



Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

**Skill Points:**

- Portrait lighting
- Working with a teen model
- Using clothing & props creatively
- Proper framing

# CREATING PORTRAITS OF TEENS

This genre requires a bit of finesse learning “what’s hot” in today’s market. Of all the portrait subjects, teenagers follow trends more than any other. It is important to understand what teens, and parents, find acceptable and desirable.

**KEY LESSON:** Keep things simple. Concentrate on either a simple half body shot or a full length shot. Teens don’t always want to smile, so accommodate them, and then ask for a few smiles at the end. Let them be involved in picking the clothing and the location.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT



### Camera

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, compact or smartphone



### Lens + Hood

Headshot -> 50mm - 135mm  
½ Body -> 28mm - 70mm



### Lighting

Window light, outdoor natural light, electronic flash, large bounce cards.



### Props & clothing

That meet current trends and represent the model.



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select two models: one male and one female. Select a clean background or a storytelling background. Create one portrait of each model indoor and one outdoors.
- 2- **Indoor:** use a window with indirect bright light for your main light and the bounce cards to lighten the shadow side. **Outdoors:** shoot during the Golden Hour. Try different backgrounds. Expose for the facial skin.
- 3- Select a few simple props and clothing that compliment the backgrounds, and represent the personality of the model (Do they play sports? Do they love music?) .
- 4- Setup your camera with these general tips: **ISO:** 400 (then adjust as needed) / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Focus Points:** Center grouping / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **Focus mode:** Single shot / **Metering:** Center-weighted / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th telephoto - 1/125th wider lenses / **Shooting Mode:** Manual or aperture priority / **Aperture:** f/5.6 or wider-Make sure the depth of field covers the eyes / **White balance:** Auto
- 5- Get your camera settings and lighting figured out, and then concentrate on mood and style.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture a pleasant expression that pleases the teen and the parents?
- Did you frame the shot appropriately? Can you see all of the teen’s features?
- Does your portrait tell a story about the teen?

Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting
- Proper framing
- Capturing expression
- Skin retouching

# CREATING PORTRAITS OF WOMEN



Portrait photography of women requires an attention to detail. Equipment & lighting knowledge is as important as being constantly aware of small details such as hair, hands, makeup, and the pose.

**KEY LESSON:** Concentrate on one of two types of female portraits: either a simple headshot or a half-body shot. Use broad even lighting across the face. Keep any shadowing on the face to a minimum. Don't over-sexualize the shot. Don't remove all of the skin texture in post-processing.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



EQUIPMENT



Camera

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, compact or smartphone



Lens + Hood

Headshot -> 85<sub>mm</sub> - 200<sub>mm</sub>  
½ Body -> 35<sub>mm</sub> - 100<sub>mm</sub>



Lighting

Window light, outdoor natural light, electronic flash, large bounce cards.



Makeup & clothing

That meet current trends and represent the model.



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select a model. Set up a portrait session indoor and another portrait session outdoors. Select clean backgrounds with a neutral or solitary color. Study sample photographs.
- 2- **Indoor:** use a window for lighting. **Outdoors:** shoot during the Golden Hour. Experiment with lighting from different directions.
- 3- Keep the model's hair out of her face. Keep the hands close to her body. Watch for wrinkles or sagging skin around the neck, arms, and legs. Keep the chin slightly elevated.
- 4- Setup your camera with these general tips: **ISO:** 400 (then adjust as needed) / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Focus Points:** Center grouping / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **Metering:** Center-weighted **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th telephoto / 1/125th wider lenses / **Shooting Mode:** Manual or Aperture priority / **Aperture:** From wide open to f/5.6 -Make sure the depth of field covers the eyes / **White balance:** Auto
- 5- Use bounce cards to lighten shadows under the eyes.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture an interesting and pleasant expression? Did you frame the shot tight enough?
- Did you bounce light up into the face to eliminate shadows under the eyes and create broad even lighting?