**BASIC (BLT) PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS**

TGJ4M1

Westlane SS

Mr. Babony

Learn the "BLT" of photography:

A good photo demands control of focus and an interesting subject - but whether you use a camera phone or a DSLR, here are four other basic principles that can help you compose a better photo

**1. Choose your BACKGROUND**

The objective is to keep the background SIMPLE in order to highlight or draw focus to the SUBJECT

Move around the subject to find an uncluttered background for your subject. Move UP and DOWN to use the sky or the ground.

Look for colour, perspective, or angles to make the shot more interesting.

**2. Choose your LIGHTING**

The objective is to optimize lighting on the SUBJECT

**BASIC LIGHTING**

Use natural lighting if it’s available. ie. nearby windows

Keep the sun behind you, not in your lens.

Use Side Lighting and Back Lighting if you have a fill flash

Take the picture in nearby shade for softer lighting

**CONTROL YOUR FLASH**

Know how to turn your flash OFF or ON, and experiment with both.

INDOORS - Try turning your flash OFF for softer lighting; you have to hold your camera especially steady for the image not to blur.

OUTDOORS - Try turning your flash ON - a “Fill Flash” can illuminate deep shadows on your subject.

DON’T rely on “AUTO” flash - you should MANUALLY turn the flash on or off. Sometimes you have to take your entire CAMERA out of “auto-mode”.

Make sure the flash is above the lens when taking portrait orientation photos, or else the shadows will be exagerated.

DON’T use “RED EYE” - it can distract your subjects

HIDE the SHADOWS

**3. Use a TRIPOD**

The objective is to achieve the steadiest shot you can to maximize the focus and quality of the image

The tripod will let you take more CLEAR, CRISP photos than you can manage handheld

The tripod will let you turn OFF the flash for indoor photos, getting a better variety of lighting

**4. FILL the FRAME (or choose your FRAMING or FOV)**

The objective is to devote the majority of pixels to your SUBJECT, and to

Max out the optical ZOOM on your camera to “get closer” to your subject

Move in on your subject to feature them

DON’T WASTE A PIXEL on unnecessary backgrounds. The more pixels you devote to your subject, the better the quality of the shot will be.

**BLT&F ASSIGNMENT -**

**1. Single MCU Shot Assignment**

Demonstrate your BLT&F skills!

In groups of 2-3: Shoot and post a LANDSCAPE MCU portrait of your partner(s) for their portfolio splashpage - your job is to CLEARLY demonstrate that you understand the principles of Background, Lighting, Tripod and Framing

Submit the UNTOUCHED photo that YOU took to the appropriate HANDINS folder named using our FILE NAMING RULES

Having trouble submitting your photo? Is your image BLOCKED?

**2. Multiple Image Photo Study Assignment**

You need to take and post 16 Photos!

For EACH of the four Principles above, EACH STUDENT must take AT LEAST 4 photos that clearly demonstrate that they understand the principle.

Include:

One photo that demonstrates a typical "Bad" use of the principle.

Three more that demonstrate an "EXCELLENT" use of the principle with creative but controlled BACKGROUNDS

Experiment with variations and options available to you

Choose varying environments ie Indoor vs Outdoor - Still life vs Action

Submit the four photos to the appropriate handins folder PROPERLY named with the description "1" for the worst, and "4" for the best

Upload and Present the images and your findings in your PORTFOLIO

**POSSIBLE SHOT IDEAS**

**BACKGROUND:**

One Noisy Background (BAD)

One Using the Sky

One Using a blank Wall or serious DEPTH of FIELD

One using a uniform pattern like a row of lockers

**LIGHTING**

Two FLASH ON

One Outdoor or in strong backlight

One Indoor relatively close up

Two FLASH OFF

One Outdoor or in strong backlight

One Indoor relatively close up

**TRIPOD**

Two handheld in a darker, indoor environment

One with a still subject

One with a moving subject

Two on a Tripod

One with a still subject

One with a moving subject

**FRAMING**

**EVALUATION**

Completion - All requirements of this assignment have been met in the time provided

Effectiveness - The photos clearly demonstrate an understanding of the intended principle

Creativity - The photos demonstrate appropriate effort and creativity