

Visual Arts: Digital Photography I - Portraiture

Targeted Goals from Stage 1: Students will take a series of photographs using unique angles of view along with a deliberate background, focus, and lighting

Content Knowledge:

How to apply compositional methods to portraiture photography

How catch light is used in portraiture photography to give the portrait “life”

How to use background to enhance the foreground image, not competing with it

Vocabulary: Catch Light, Angle of View, Foreground, Background, Contour, Overexposure, underexposure

Skills: Using the cameras basic, intermediate, advanced controls to create and intended effect in the photograph

Portrait Assignment Instructions

Shooting directions – After reviewing the directions on the following page, shoot at least 30 informal portraits of your family members or people that you have sheltered in place with.

(You may include up to five self -portraits and five pet portraits)

Apply your knowledge of composition to this portrait assignment. Note how a unique point of view, and the placement of the portrait within the picture frame can add drama to your shot. Lighting is key! Be mindful of shadows; they can be distracting or as is in the case of the portrait in the middle of the top row, the shadow pattern, tracing the contours of the subjects face, are visually compelling. Your subject’s eyes are the most expressive aspect of their portrait. Make sure they are in focus and consider where they fall relative to the picture frame. Try close-up shots as well as informal shots taken from a distance (not too far away). Try both vertical and horizontal compositions. Avoid distracting backgrounds.

What to shoot:

- Shoot at least 5 **window light shots**. Some smiling, some not, some looking at the lens, some not. Use indirect sunlight from a window to light up the side of the model's face without a distracting background. Do not include the window in the shot or the exposure will be blown out!!!! Simply frame the face and nothing else.
- Shoot at least 5 portraits of a model **not smiling**, with some shots looking with a penetrating gaze into the lens and some shots looking away from the lens.
- Shoot at least 5 portraits of a model **smiling**, with some shots looking into the lens and some shots looking away from the lens.
- Shoot at least 5 portraits of **kids**
- Shoot at least 5 portraits of **adults/ grandparents**
- Shoot at least 5 portraits that include **hands or a prop**.

How to shoot:

- Make sure **the eyes are the focus of the picture**. Position the subject and lighting so that you see catch light (reflection) in the eyes. The eyes must be sharp for a successful portrait. Remember "**Intimacy with the eyes**".
- Set your camera to **Portrait Mode/ "Soft snap"** to get a selective focus look (That means blurry background and sharp foreground).
- Get close to the model by zooming in, not by moving the camera closer. You don't want the lens to distort the model's face.
- Don't use flash. Use natural, diffused lighting. Be careful that the light source is not too bright or the subject will be washed out. You may need to adjust the exposure compensation on your camera. Look on your menu or buttons for a +/- icon. This will brighten or darken your image before you take the shot.
- Night mode will give you some neat portrait effects to experiment with.

Design/ compositional requirements:

- Shoot **vertical and horizontal portraits**. Diagonal shots can also be quite compelling.
- **Pay attention to the background**. Position the camera looking at both subject and background.
- Compose the shots so that the **focal point is on a third**.

Digital-Photography-School website- Portrait Photography Tips

Week criteria for success (attach student checklists or rubrics):

Supportive resources and tutorials for the week (plans for re-teaching):