

Photography

30 Day Challenge

Challenge 1

Take ten photos of anything you'd like. Import them on to your computer and delete them from your camera. Create a folder for your photography class photos. Within it, you'll create more folders as you take more pictures, each one labeled with the date (month and year) and name. Delete the pictures from your camera.

Challenge 2

Take a photo of each person at home. Import them into your computer and label them. Crop the photos to a head and shoulders view. Notice that you can crop things smaller, but you can't make something bigger than the picture you took. Save your edited photos.

Challenge 3

Take a landscape picture outside. Import it. Give it a label. Edit the photo using photo editing software or an online program.

Challenge 4

Take 10 pictures outdoors. Import, label, and edit.

Challenge 5

Take a picture of an object, once inside and once outside. Import the two pictures.

How are they the same? How are they different? Which one turned out better? Why do you think this is so? Do you remember what the root "photo" means?

Challenge 6

Take 6 photos of things that are blue. Import, label, and edit. Then create a collage of things that are blue using Picasa. Save it. Make sure to put the collage into the right folder.

Challenge 7

Take some seasonal photos. Make a collage. It could include fall colors, winter scenes, signs of spring, or your favorite summertime items.

P.I.L.E.

Each challenge involves more than just taking pictures. Great photographers also organize and edit their photos. The Acronym "PILE" can help you remember what to do for each challenge:

P – Photograph

I – Import

L – Label

E – Edit

First, take your pictures, then import them on to the computer using your cord. Make sure to label them and sort them into their proper folders. Finally, edit them and delete any that you don't want to keep. Be consistent and keep your pictures organized as you go.

Challenge 8

Take some photos of a person both inside and outside in several locations with different lighting (in lighter and darker areas and in both sunshine and shade). Can you figure out what provides the best lighting for a photo?

Challenge 9

Take a picture of a shadow. Most of the time, photographers avoid shadows, but you will intentionally photograph a shadow.

Challenge 10

Lighting is probably the most important thing to consider in photography, and in general, we've found that the more natural light, the better. The only time this isn't true is when you have too much glare in the background. For example, if you take a picture of something with very bright sun directly in the background, you will get a big glare. You may need to change your angle so the sun is lighting your subject, but not directly behind it. Practice this by taking 4 pictures with a bright light behind a subject and 4 others with a bright light illuminating, but not behind, your subject.

Challenge 11

Choose a specific portable object to take a picture of. Snap some photos of it. Now, think about the background. What else is in your photo besides the object? What does the background look like? Can you improve your photo by setting it in a better background somehow? Always remember

to consider what is in the background of your photo because it can be just as important as the subject. Practice taking pictures of your object with pleasing backgrounds.

Applying What You Know

Once you've learned about lighting or backgrounds, or any of the other photography tips, you should continue to apply them to every single challenge. Even if the challenge doesn't say to make sure you have good lighting, once you've learned that principle you should apply it to all your pictures. For example, from now on you should always consider not just the subject, but also what is in the background of every single photo.

Challenge 12

Take a picture of someone and remember to consider the background. When you're taking a picture of a person it's very important to make sure the person is the focus and not something distracting about the background. For example, if there is a tree coming out of the person's head, you will notice the tree growing out of their head rather than their beautiful smile.

Challenge 13

Hold the camera as steady as you can while you take pictures, and don't move it away until the camera shot is completely done. You will get the clearest shots if it's very steady. That's why a lot of professional photographers use tripods; a tripod holds the camera steady while the photo is taken. You might want to rest your hands on something, like a table, a tree, or a rock. If you don't have anything to

rest on, spread your legs out to shoulder width, stand very still, and make sure to hold the camera still until the shot is completely over. Take ten pictures and practice holding the camera very steady.

Challenge 14

Make a photo guessing game. Take ten pictures. Edit the photos so they are zoomed way in. Have someone guess what it is, then show the whole photo and see if they were right.

Challenge 15

Take pictures of the sky.

Challenge 16

Dress up and have someone take photos of you. Practice posing in flattering ways. For women, a slight angle to the camera is flattering. Also, keeping a small gap between your waist and your arms makes you thinner and longer. Finally, separate your feet, creating different angles with your legs. For men, make sure you are making yourself long and not hunching your shoulders. Put your shoulders back a little while still staying relaxed.

Looking for a Photograph

Everywhere you go, you should begin to look with a photographer's eye. Take an empty picture frame and go for a walk. Hold it up and find moments that are particularly beautiful or tell a story.

Even without a frame, you can begin to see things that tell stories – someone laughing, a spider on its web, snow falling, a mom hugging her kids. Each of these makes us feel or remember something, and that is what makes a great photo.

Challenge 17

Go look in the mirror and smile in different ways, noticing your favorite smiles. Place your tongue on the roof of your mouth and smile – this is a trick photographers use to prevent double chins. Take a picture of someone smiling.

Challenge 18

Take pictures of things that make you happy.

Challenge 19

Take some photos that you think would look great in black and white, then edit them to be black and white. It's important to have enough contrast to help it show up well in black and white. If everything is just kind of gray, it will run together and disappear.

Challenge 20

Take a picture of an item in each of the rainbow colors, then create a rainbow collage.

Challenge 21

Take a close up picture of eyes.

Challenge 22

Take a picture of your favorite place in your house.

Challenge 23

Take a picture of an animal. This could be your own pet or a bird at the park. Try to find an opportunity when it's still.

Challenge 24

Photograph something cold. If you want to you can edit this in unique ways like having it be slightly blue toned or with soft edges and soft focus.

Challenge 25

Take a silhouette photograph.

Challenge 26

Take pictures of the same thing from different vantage points. Get down low, up high, directly overhead, straight on, off to the side, close up, and far away.

Challenge 27

Take a picture of a person from different vantage points and angles. Get down really low. Take a picture from above someone. Take a close-up straight on. If you are photographing someone smaller than you, it's usually best to get down on their level.

Challenge 28

Take a picture of what you see outside your window.

Challenge 29

Take a picture of music.

Challenge 30

Take a self-portrait.

A Final Look At Your Photographs

Go back through all the photos you took and edit them one more time. Delete those that aren't as good. Choose several of your favorites to make a collage portfolio of your best work. Print it out and add it to your school portfolio. Write about what you learned from these challenges. This will be your final project.