How to Take Better Photographs
Control quality by controlling the camera

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Goals

Appreciate the importance of controlling a camera to improve the quality of a photograph.

Learn simple ways to optimize your shooting situation to increase your chances of photographing successfully.

Conquer the fear of the “M”.

Be able to apply the techniques in your own photography and have fun in the process.
“M” – Manual Mode

Aperture (F-stop) : How Much?

Shutter Speed: How Long?

ISO: How Sensitive?
Aperture

The variable opening by which light enters a camera
Shutter speed

The length of time that the shutter is open, in fractions of a second.

notated as:
1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/15, 1/30, 1/60, 1/125, 1/250, 1/500, 1/1000

or:
4, 2, 1, 2, 4, 8, 15, 30, 60, 125, 250, 500, 1000
Slow Shutter Speed
Fast Shutter Speed
ISO

Sensitivity to light
Common settings: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200
ISO

Low ISO:
• Outdoor photography with plenty of natural light
• Shooting long exposures in low light with a tripod

High ISO:
• Shooting in low light without a tripod
Lighting
Noise
Ways to Improve Your Photographs

- Location
- Lighting
- Composition
- Timing
- Be prepared
- Consider the subject
- Use the camera
- I’ll fix it in Photoshop
Focus
Hard Flash Lighting
Watch the head
Portraits

• Consider your subject’s comfort
• Engage
• Be ready and be quick
• Portrait subjects aren’t mind readers – discuss what you need.
• Position when necessary
Group Photos

• Everyone needs light and good light!
• Keep attention focused
• Position when necessary
• Be mindful of where you are shooting
• Balance
Events

• Use discretion
• Be careful with timing
• Be ready and be quick
• Be prepared
• Be patient
• Watch out for the equipment!
Then have some fun.