

FOUR TIPS FOR GREAT PHOTOS

ONE: THINK BEFORE YOU SHOOT

Taking tons of pictures may seem like a good idea at the time, but when you transfer all those photos to your computer you're going to wish you hadn't. Too many images is always a burden later. Unless you need to act fast, it's almost always better to think before you shoot. If you take the time to compose your shot, rather than hold down your shutter and hope for the best, you'll end up with the photo you want and less work to do when you're back at your computer.

TWO: THINK ABOUT THE LIGHT

If you've ever looked directly into a source of light, you know it's not only unpleasant but makes it harder to see much else around you. This same problem applies to your camera. If you point it at a light source, it'll have trouble seeing everything else and the resulting photo will be a silhouette. Whether it's the sun, a bright lamp, or a window, whenever you notice a bright light in your frame just move so the light is behind you rather than your subject. In addition, overhead sunlight can cast harsh shadows, if you are photographing people; avoid squinting in your photos by moving your subject into a shady area. Cloudy or overcast days can provide a softer light source for photographing people. Scenic photos are best taken using the long shadows and colour of early morning and late afternoon when the light is warmer and softer.

THREE: KEEP BACKGROUNDS SIMPLE

As a rule, simple backgrounds are better for portraits as they don't detract from your main subject. That being said, there are times when a busier background may provide context in the photo. Think about the overall objective of the photo when looking at the background, especially if the background involves messy furniture (lots of tables and chairs) or lots of people (think about all the consent forms you'll have to get!).

FOUR: FOCUS ON YOUR MAIN SUBJECT

Focus on keeping the main subject of the photograph sharp and in focus. Even if your photo has more than one subject (multiple people) choose to frame your photo so you can clearly pick one main subject to focus on. Also think about how many subjects you really need in the photo. For example, a photo of 15 students sitting in chairs with their backs to the camera, listening to an adult in a circle – is that more or less powerful than a closer image of the adult speaking and 2 or 3 students with their faces fully or partially visible showing that they are engaged?