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Digital Photography

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Staff Technology Workshops: Digital Photography – July 15th

1. Choosing a Camera

- Know what you want to do (see the guide for tips on camera features for different types of photos)
- Make sure it's easy to use
- Find out about accessories (batteries, memory cards)

Types of Cameras:



Point & Shoot



Superzoom



DSLR/Professional

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • portable • simpler • fun features • lots of sizes & colors • cheapest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advanced options • manual controls • built-in lens • reasonable prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highest quality • complete control • lots of lenses • most versatile • lenses can transfer • very expensive
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2. Camera Settings

Basic Settings



Action

Takes faster photos to freeze motion



Portrait

Makes it easier to focus on faces



Macro (close-ups)

Makes it easier to focus close to the camera



Landscape

Takes photos that are sharp all over.



Flash

Usually on, but too much can be a problem.

Turn it off for more natural lighting.

Advanced Settings



Burst Mode

Automatically take multiple shots



Night

Cameras are slower in dim light, so set the camera down or use a tripod



Program

Some automatic settings, some custom



Aperture-Priority

Choose what you want to keep in focus.



Shutter-Priority

Choose how fast the camera takes the photo.



Manual

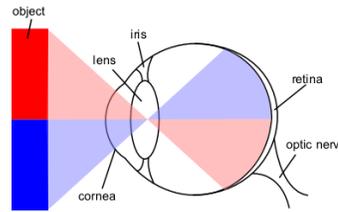
This lets you adjust both the lens and the shutter. May help in tricky light, but you should experiment.

3. Taking Better Photos

What is Photography?

Light, hitting an object, bouncing back to hit a lens, which records it into an image.

Which is basically the same way our eyes work:



What Creates a Photo?

Light: How much? More at noon than at midnight, More on a sunny day than a cloudy one

Time: How long does the light come in? (speed/shutter)

Lens: What can it see (lens angle/width)? What is in focus? (aperture/focus)

"Six Rules"

1. **Simplify:** fewer distractions = better photos
2. **Fill the Frame** (see above)
3. **Lines:** direct the eye
4. **Rule of Thirds** (tic-tac-toe)
5. **Balance:** what is "heaviest"?
6. **Avoid Mergers:** don't play mad scientist

Basic Tips

- **Try different angles:** try walking around, crouching, looking up, looking down
- **Move your subjects:** Look where people are standing for portraits, arrange still lifes carefully, etc.
- **Adjust your camera:** try zooming, different focus settings, etc.
- **Lighting:** waiting for the right time can make a big difference (afternoons and mornings often best)
- **Crop it later!**

4. Photo Editors

Online

- Flickr - Picnic
- Photoshop
- Printing Sites: Snapfish, etc.

Free for Computers

- Picasa
- Gimp
- iPhoto (with Mac computers)

Advanced

- Photoshop
- Aperture
- Bridge/Lightroom

5. Printing Photos

At Home

- Printers
- Ink
- Paper

Stores

- What do you bring in?
- How long does it take?
- Can you submit them online?

Online

- Often cheapest
- Delivery: mail or store pickup?
- Sizes: bigger range (but check settings)
- Quality – do they make adjustments?

6. Organizing & Sharing Online

Organizing

- Saving to a computer
- Folders? (iPhoto uses its own)
- Tags? (Picasa, Bridge)
- Backing up drives

Sharing

Dedicated photo sites:

Flickr, Picasa, Photobucket, (lots more)

Social sites:

Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, blogs

Photo Printing Sites:

Snapfish, Kodak Gallery, Shutterfly, etc

More Concerns

Privacy Settings

- Album/Set vs. Photo
- Who can see?
- Do they need to login?

Rights Management

Copyright, Creative Commons, and more