

INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITS PROJECT



DSLR, ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAIT:
LESSON PLAN, PRESENTATION,
ACTIVITY, RUBRIC, & MORE

Introduction to DSLR Photography ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITS

BIG IDEA:

- Environmental Portraits

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What is an environmental portrait?
- How can you capture someone's personality through a photograph?
- How can the environment, props, and poses, help support your subject in a photograph?

OBJECTIVES: Students will...

- Look at and discuss different examples of environmental portrait methods and techniques to capture successful environmental portraits.
- Research an artist that inspires them.
- Take at least 50 photographs and select their best 5 to submit via their predetermined submission process).
- Select their favorite photograph to print for the critique and be displayed.
- Participate in a critique of the photographs.

STANDARDS: <http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/>

- 8th grade:
 - Visual Arts/Creating: VA:Cr1.1.8, Document early stage creative process visually and/or verbally in traditional media.
 - Visual Arts/Creating: VA:Cr2.1.8, Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, for meanings that emerge in the process of art-making or design.
 - Visual Arts/Responding: VA:Re9.1.8, Create a convincing logical argument to support an evaluation of art.

High School:

- ART:
 - Proficient:
 - Visual Arts/Creating: VA:Cr1.1.HSI, Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.
 - Visual Arts/Responding: VA:Re8.1.HSI, Interpret an art collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts.
 - Visual Arts/Presenting: VA:Pr.4.1.HSI, Analyze, select, and/or artworks for presentation.

- Mounting supplies to mount the printed images (matboard, poster board, etc.)

PRINTABLES:

- Artist research sheet
- Assignment sheet
- Critique sheet

BONUS

- Environmental Portraits presentation

RESOURCES:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_portrait
- <https://digital-photography-school.com/environmental-portraits/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UH8K7s4kYqg>

VOCABULARY:

- Elements of photography: Successful photos rely on order, and the main elements that bring and emphasize order in a photograph's composition are: line, color, shape, contrast, emphasis, texture, and space.

- Principles of design: describe the ways that artists use the elements of art in a work of art. Includes: balance, emphasis, movement, proportion, repetition, pattern, rhythm, contrast, unity, and variety.
- Composition: In the visual arts, composition is the placement or arrangement of visual elements in a work of art. The term composition means 'putting together' and can apply to any work of art, from music to writing to photography, that is arranged using conscious thought.
- Rules of composition: Guiding principles to help create successful photographs. Includes the rule of thirds, balancing elements, leading lines, viewpoint, inclusion and exclusion.
- Rules of thirds: Placing the focal point of the photograph in one of the third sections rather than directly in the center.
- Aperture: A part of a lens that controls the amount of light that enters the camera and as a result, the depth of field.
- F-stop/f-number: a camera setting corresponding to a particular f-number, which is determined by the ratio of focal length to the aperture diameter. The f-number represents the aperture setting.
- Depth of field: the distance between the nearest and the furthest objects that give an image judged to be in focus in a camera.
- Shutter speed: In photography, the length of time for which a shutter is open at a given setting.
- ISO: Can change the lightness and darkness of a photograph while capturing it. Low ISO numbers mean the image will be darker and crisper, high ISO numbers mean the image will be bright but more grainy.
- Manual mode: Full control over the digital camera settings. You are able to change the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO without the camera trying to interfere with the settings.
- Portrait photography: a photograph of a person or group of people that captures the personality of the subject by using effective lighting, backdrops, and poses.
- Directional lighting: lighting from just one direction to create contrast and drama.
- Ambient light: available light, before any other light sources are added, typically natural light.

- Environmental portrait: A portrait in which the background of the image gives context to the subject in the image.

IMPLEMENTATION: For a 50 minute class, times may vary.

DAY 1: Introduction

- Start class by showing the environmental portraits presentation.
- Encourage students to participate in a class discussion as you go through the slides. Tell them they need to take notes.
 - Explain what an environmental portrait is.
 - Show examples, ask students what impression they get from the subject and see if they can get a sense of the person through the image or not.
 - Discuss which images are the most successful and why.
 - Go through tips on capturing environmental portraits.
 - Show the 10 minute video on capturing environmental portraits.
 - Explain their assignment and how they will be graded.
- Pass out the artist research sheets.
 - Explain that they get to find their own artist inspiration for this project.
 - The artist they choose should have a portrait style that inspires them.
 - They need to save a copy of their favorite photograph by the artist to include in their end of assignment blog post.
- Let them work on their artist research worksheet for the rest of class. When finish they need to turn it in for a participation grade.
- If they have time at the end of class they can start taking pictures for the assignment.
- Before they leave remind them that they need to spend time outside of class taking pictures so they can capture people in their element, in their rooms, favorite spots, etc.
- Let them leave the classroom and go inside and outside to take pictures. Remind them to behave themselves while they are outside of the classroom. Before assignment contact your administrators for approval and notify the other members that students will be working outside of the classroom. Ask them to report any misbehavior and deduct points from their grade if anything is reported.
- 5 minutes before class ends, students need to report back to the classroom return equipment and pack up to leave.

DAY 2-3: Take and Edit Photographs

- As soon as students arrive in class, they can start working on taking pictures and editing them.
- Let them leave the classroom and go inside and outside to take pictures.
- 5 minutes before class ends, students need to report back to the classroom return equipment and pack up to leave.

Day 4: Upload, Edit, Blog Post

- As soon as students arrive in class, they can start working on taking pictures and editing them.

- Today they will have the entire class to finalize their 5 photographs to upload to their blog and submit for their grade.
- They can use class time to upload, edit, and write their blog post.
 - Submission options will vary. Select the one that makes the most sense to your set up. If doing the blog portion, have students upload their 5 photographs to their course blog and write about the process and information about the pictures.
 - OR have students drop their completed pictures into a shared drive on your school's network.
 - Or have students save them on a thumb drive to turn into you. Upload their pictures to your computer for grading, and return their thumb drive to use on the next assignment.
 - Or have students upload their photographs to a website such as Flickr. They can create a private profile used only for this class, or you can create a class profile and grant all students access to it.
- By the end of class their 5 environmental portrait photographs should be submitted through a predetermined process.
- They need to select which picture they would like to print for the critique and display. If they have time, they can print during class or at the start of class the next day.
- Allow them to clean up the last few minutes of class.

DAY 4: Print Image, Critique, Display

Before the students arrive cut up enough blank strips of paper for everyone to comment on each photograph. Place an envelope in front of each photograph.

- Let students have some time at the start of class to print and set up their photographs for the critique.
 - If you are digitally displaying them have the students pull their images up on their computer screens.
 - OR have everyone submit their favorite picture to a public drive and pull them up on the projector.
 - IDEAL: If having the students print their images select a spot for them to hang them up and display them together. This also makes the display process easier for you. If the students each print and mount their own pictures they can help setup the display at the end of class.
- Gather students into a group, pass out the critique sheet and critique labels.
- Have the students look at each photograph first and fill out the critique sheet.
- After they complete the critique sheets pass out strips of paper. Have the students write a positive comment, their favorite part of each photograph, and place it in an envelope in front of each photograph.
- After the comments are written move into a verbal discussion, discuss each work of art, what the artist experienced photographing, and the students' responses to the photograph.
- After the critique let students read their comments.

LESSON PLAN:

BIG IDEA, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, US NATIONAL STANDARDS, STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS



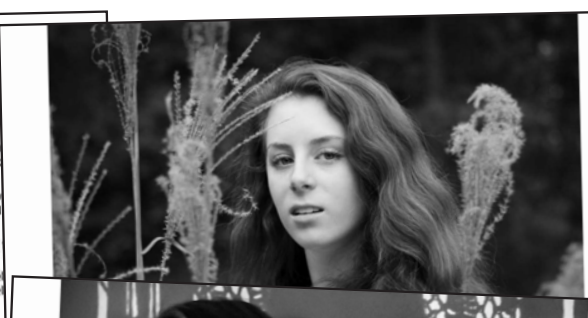
Environmental Portraits

Adding a Personalized Touch



What is an environmental portrait?

- An environmental portrait is a photograph of a person in their usual surroundings, such as their home, place of work, etc.
- The idea of an environmental portrait is that the person is in a space they are comfortable in, you will sense of their personality.
- The environmental aspect is important to this portrait.
 - Including items that the person owns, feels comfortable in, or somehow reflects their interests who this person is.



How to capture a successful environmental portrait:

- Get to know your subject.
 - Get to know their personality, think about how you can reflect that in your portrait.
 - Use their more serious or try higher contrast lighting. Are they more bubbly? Try finding bright colors to include.
 - Try to make them laugh to help put them at ease. The more comfortable they are before you start shooting, the more likely you will be able to capture a sense of who they are.
- Carefully select a location.
 - A place that connects to or reflects the subject.
 - A place that will create an interesting backdrop.
 - Avoid places that will dominate the picture, the focus should still be the person.
- Timing.
 - Try to get your subject in an environmental portrait. Help set up the shot by placing them in specific lighting or ask them to engage in something in the environment.
- Props.
 - If you choose to include props make sure they naturally fit into the environment.

Check out tips [here.](#)



Your assignment...

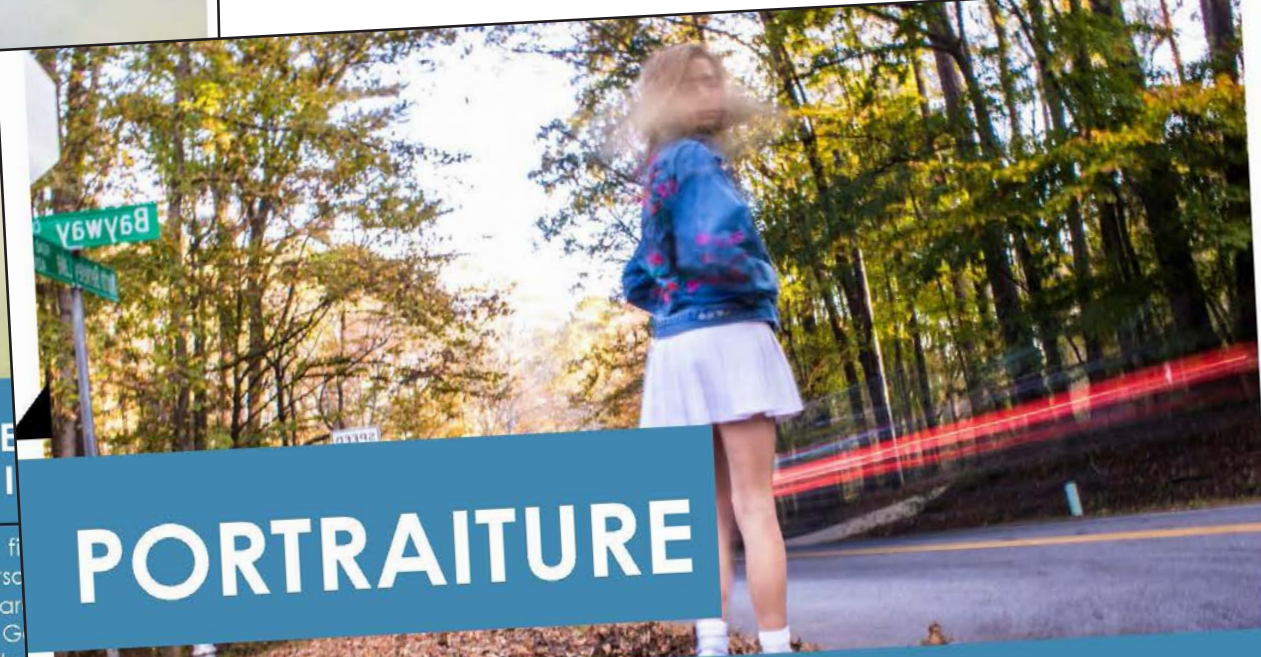
- 5 minimum final photos of one person that shows their classmate's personality, try getting up close and getting full body shots.
- Pay close attention to COMPOSITION. Remember the rule of thirds, dominant lines, pattern, texture, shallow or great depth of field.
- Use your newly learned lighting skills: fill flash, reflector, etc.
- If you shoot indoors, use a higher ISO and get near a window to maximize the amount of available light.
- Be creative about how you shoot people. Think beyond the portrait.
- Be careful of background and clothing choices, everything should be intentional.



Your grade...

- Find a photographer that portrays a portrait style that interests you.
- At least 50 photographs taken exploring environmental portraits.
- 5 photographs are uploaded to your blog and written about, plus an example of your favorite photo from your artist research.
- You comment on your classmates' blog posts.
- 1 photograph is printed and displayed for a critique and added to your photo journal.
- Critique participation.

PRESENTATION: PROJECT EXAMPLES, REQUIREMENTS, & GRADING DETAILS



WHAT TYPE OF PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER ARE YOU?
PHOTOJOURNALIST
CANDID
FORMAL
TELL A STORY-TELLER!



PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

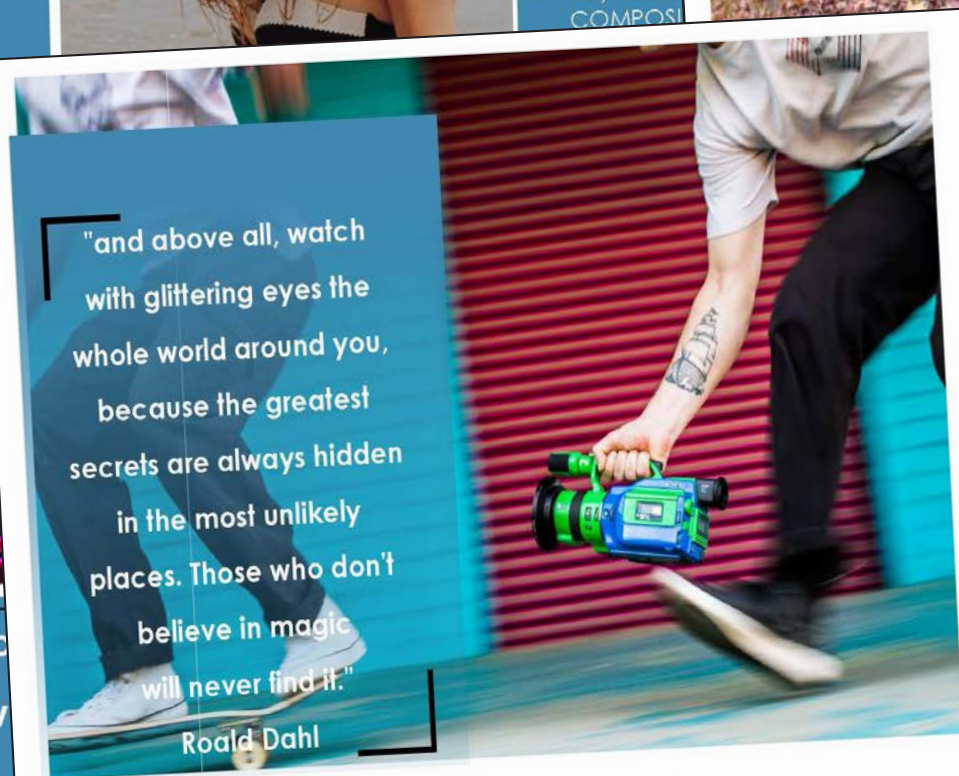
- 5 (min.) film one person their character angles. Get full body.
- Pay close attention to COMPOSITION

PORTRAITURE

Starts with YOU!



Capture the SOUL of your subject. Show their interests, dreams, past, pain, joy, soul,



"and above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you, because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it."
Roald Dahl

PORTRAIT TECHNIQUE

could be more simple and more complex, more profound." Charles Baudelaire, 1859

the world you inhabit and the people you make. Our story also affects how we see people!
Your job is to bring the story to the image

Preparation for your portraits:

Focus on WHAT but WHO your subject- Ask good questions, show your subject is memorable.
Get feedback and thoughtful feedback.
Show what movement is natural for your subject.
Encourage them to relax by having them take a deep

breath of himself and that put him at ease with the world." - John Steinbeck



HANDOUTS:

PROJECT HANDOUT WITH CHEAT SHEET

Name: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAIT CRITIQUE

Carefully look at each work of art. Then answer the following questions:

1. Which photograph caught your attention first? Why?

2. Which photograph best captures the topic, environmental portraits? Why?

3. Which photograph has the most interesting backdrop? Why?

Artist Research Environmental Portraits

Research photographers take environmental portraits. Find one whose style interests you. Try using keywords such as photographer, environmental portrait, portraits, modern portrait, portrait photographer, personalized portraits, etc.

Once you find a photographer whose work inspires you answer the following questions:

1. Artist's name: _____

2. Location: _____

3. Additional biographical information (where they studied photography, what movement they are a part of, how they became interested in photography).

Artist Research Environmental Portraits

Research photographers take environmental portraits. Find one whose style interests you. Try using keywords such as photographer, environmental portrait, portraits, modern portrait, portrait photographer, personalized portraits, etc.

Once you find a photographer whose work inspires you answer the following questions:

1. Artist's name: _____

2. Location: _____

3. Additional biographical information (where they studied photography, what movement they are a part of, how they became interested in photography).

4. What do they typically focus on for subject matter?

NAME: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAITS RUBRIC

- Photo 1 (14) _____
- Photo 2 (14) _____
- Photo 3 (14) _____
- Photo 4 (14) _____
- Photo 5 (10) _____
- Photographs reflect the topic environmental portraits. (10) _____
- Photographs are edited
- Blog post included information about the photographs, process, background information about the images, artist exemplar photograph, and reflects an understanding of the assignment. (10) _____

Total: (100) _____

HANDOUTS:

RUBRIC, CRITIQUE