

Photography Attributes

Qualities that are unique to photography

LIGHT

Expect to be able to Describe the quality and type of light

- What is the source, natural or artificial? How does it affect the look of the photo?
- What is the quality and direction? What is the angle? Where, if any are the shadow?
- Is the light soft or hard? Shadows thin or thick? Do the light and shadows create any kind of pattern?



Joel Sternfeld

FOCUS

Focus means center of attention. It is uniquely photographic. The camera has two ways to control focus: the focus ring and the aperture.

- Does your eye go toward the sharper areas first?
- What is unclear? Is there too much blur?
- Does the subject seem real or idealized?



Emmet Gowin

TIME

Photography has a unique relationship to time because the medium depends on it. Photography is caused by the photographers presence while moving light, a lens, and time create an image.

- When observing a photo, think about whether it looks like a fleeting moment or does it have a timeless quality?
- Does the photo look like it has a slow or fast shutter speed?



MOTION

As we learned in Beginning Photo, motion and movement can be described as frozen or through blur - and many variations of blur. We control the degree of blur through shutter speed and aperture. They must have the right relationship in order to capture the correct exposure. Another type of blur is called Panning, where the camera moves with the subject.

- Looking at a photo with this in mind, is there anything moving in the photo? How can you tell?
- Can you guess how the effect was achieved?



Ralph Eugene Meatyard

VANTAGE POINT / POINT OF VIEW

This attribute is all about a photographers position when taking a picture and what the photographer's attitude is toward that subject. Point of view forms an opinion about your subject. With this in mind

- Look at the point of view of a photo - high? Low? extreme?
- Consider why the photographer chose that spot.
- Can you guess what the photographers attitude is?
- What is inside the frame and what might be *suggested to be outside of the frame?*



Alex Harris

FRAME

This is what slice of the world the photographer chooses to communicate. Similar to point of view, the composition is inside the frame.

- Again, what is included, and what has been left out?
- What elements (objects, subjects) are there, and how are they composed, or included in the frame? What is in focus? What is darker & lighter? What colors are dominant? What is the light quality?



Jamel Shabazz

CROPPING

When photographers frame their photos, they make several decisions about what to include or exclude in the frame. This could mean cutting off part of a person's arm, or hat - but if there is enough information in the frame to imagine the rest. We don't need to see everything.

- How does cropping affect your perception of a subject?
- What effect does cropping have on the graphic composition of the image?



William Christenberry



William Christenberry

TECHNIQUE

Photographers come with technology, ie. equipment. A photograph was invented on a piece of polished metal exposed for hours and is now stored on a chip. Though camera formats still vary: 35mm, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$, 4 X 5, 8 X 10, it began as the size of a room, and is now on your phone. Film is becoming obsolete, lights can be meticulously controlled, and print resolution is high definition and sharper than real life. Photographs are viewed as much or more on a screen than as a hard copy object.



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