

Photo 5 online Project 4

Storytelling Portraiture & window light

One of the most impressive and fun things you can do with friends and family is take portraits using window light. Not only do they create moody and interestingly lit images, they make you look smart as a photographer. All of a sudden, you have an image that is dark and mysterious with subtle light and showing good texture and volume. In this project, we will explore just how well you can light a person using primarily natural light with the help of a reflector.

Part 1 – Window lit portrait

Find a likely suspect. Family, friend, or relative that will pose for you. I want you to really think about this portrait rather than just snap away at the first thing and looks good. Your first consideration is the location and the background. Make sure you have adequate light coming through the window. **Do not shoot this late in the afternoon or just before dusk. While the light might look good, it is not!!!! (for reference on this go back to the YouTube video regarding Window light!!)**

- Make sure your portrait is a head and shoulders. Not interested in full length images!
Attempt to meter the scene carefully. If you have the ability to meter manually then you might want to do that. Otherwise Auto or Program will work.
- Use your telephoto setting of your camera if you have one.
- The larger the window the better overall exposure you will get.
- Next, watch out for the background. It will probably be underexposed when you shoot, but you do not want things showing up sticking out of our subject's head.
- Next make yourself some sort of reflector. **This can be as simple as a piece of cardboard with tin foil on it or just white cardboard;** it must be white however or foil. Use the reflector on the dark side of your subject to reflect the light back into the shadows. **Do not have the reflector show in your picture. Crop it out. Again refer to video!**
- Shoot a several poses of your subject, positioning them for the best portrayal of the subject and light. Shoot several versions for the best effects

Part 2 – Storytelling portrait

Find a subject and shoot storytelling portrait of them. Something that places them in a context to tell me something about the individual (i.e. if the person is a musician, then include their instruments or where they like to play, if they are a welder, then shoot them with their equipment etc.)

Shoot the portrait in two ways

- Confrontational – subject placed in context and then looking directly at the camera.
- Participatory – subject engaged in the context where you are playing fly on the wall and shooting them spontaneously as they do whatever it is they do.

When finished turn into me:

Upload to me into your folder on the server in the usual fashion:

1. Your best photograph (1) from Part 1.
2. Your best photographs (2) from Part 2 – 1 confrontational, 1 participatory
3. Three files (3) uploaded to the server on deadline.