



10 tips for better photography

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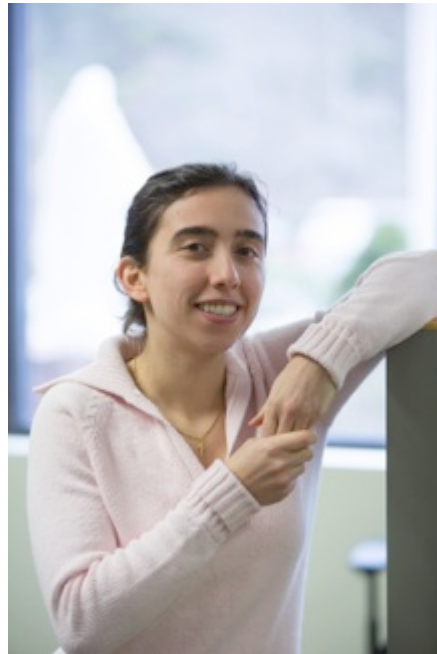
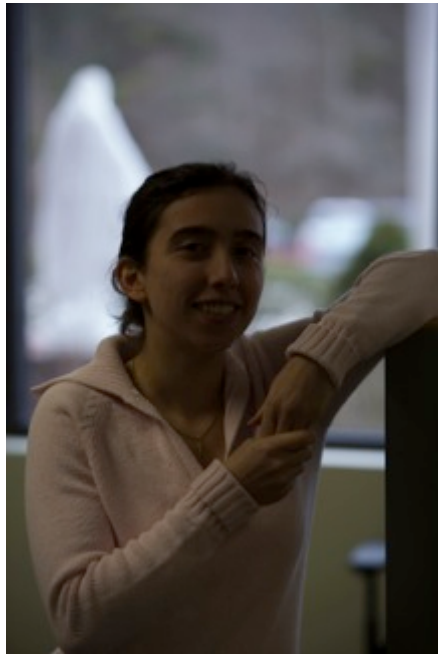
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Proper exposure matters

- Most camera meters are meant to find a medium gray (18%) to give a proper exposure.
- If the camera can't find a medium gray it will shift the colors towards gray. This can be fixed after the fact thru software.
- Aperture/Shutter speed/ASA(ISO)



Tell a story with your pictures

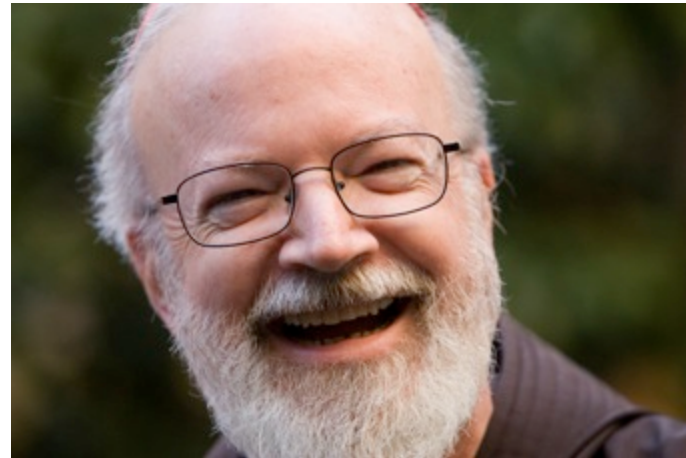
- Watch and observe your subject first before taking any pictures. Wait for it... “the decisive moment”.
- Always be ready for something unexpected.
- Some of the best pictures are when your subjects are not looking at you. Longer lenses will help you with this.



Shoot tight!

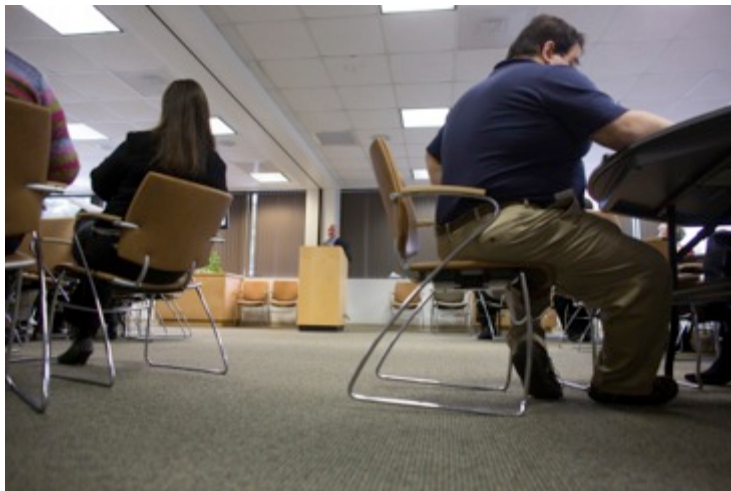


- Most photographers tend to shoot extremely loose leading to a lot of “dead space” in their photos.
- Come in tight and take away any distractions.
- This focuses your viewers eyes only on what you want them to see. “shallow depth of field also helps this”.



Shoot from different angles

- Walk all around your subject first.
- A reverse angle might highlight your subject even better.
- Above or below angles are dramatic and make a boring subject more compelling.
- Shoot both horizontally and vertically.
- Often horizontals tend to work better for the web.
- A tripod might be necessary in darker environments.



Place interesting things in the foreground of your photos.

- Trees, branches or flowers placed in the foreground of your exterior church photos can force the eye away from the sky and stay focused with your subject.
- Either in focus or out of focus.



Our Lady of the Lake - Halifax



Change lens' focal lengths

- If you can, use multiple lenses or focal lengths to tell the story.
- Wide, medium and tight.
- Image or digital stabilization can help with camera movement.
- Be wary of cameras that use digital zoom instead of optical zoom because it will affect the image quality.



Don't be obnoxious & controlling. Be a fly on the wall!

- Don't control your subject unless you're posing a photo.
- The best photos are real moments that elicit an emotion
Posed (staged) vs un-posed dilemma.
- Use available light (preferred) or bounce flash.



Always shoot more than one!

- Shooting only one picture of a subject almost guarantees you that someone's eyes will be closed!
- Also, you might capture a better expression on someone's face if you shoot more than one.



Keep your background clean!

- Busy backgrounds can be very distracting, and take the viewer's eyes off what you really want them to look at.
- Watch for items coming out of heads!



Have fun, get to know your subject.

- Photography can be a lot of fun, allowing the photographer to step into someone's life and capture their special story.
- It stops the clock for future people to enjoy.
- SMILE!



Spend post-production time enhancing your photos.

- Adobe Photoshop (monthly subscription, more affordable)
- Crop to remove unwanted distractions.
- Fine-tune exposure if it's not shot correctly.
- Resize to 300 dpi for printing purposes and 72 dpi for the web.
- Darken or lighten edges of photo to bring more attention to your subject.
- Color correct when photographing under different light color temperatures.
- Red eye removal.
- Change heads. No Pain!