



Overview

This assignment teaches how to effectively utilize different metering modes in photography to achieve optimal exposure in various shooting scenarios. By practicing with Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering, photographers will learn to place tones accurately and understand how to adjust exposure compensation as needed.

Learning Objectives

- Understand when to use Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering modes.
- Learn to adjust exposure compensation based on scene brightness.
- Develop skills to verify exposure using histograms and highlight warnings.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

What Is Metering In Photography	Exposure Bracketing A Guide For Photographers	What Is Dynamic Range In Photography
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Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with your camera's metering mode settings.
- Set your camera's ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Select a location with varied lighting conditions (e.g., bright sunlight, shaded areas).
- Prepare your tripod or stabilizer for steady shots.
- Have a notebook or digital device handy to record your observations.

Assignment Tasks

1. Using Aperture Priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, shoot a landscape scene using Matrix metering and observe the exposure results.
2. In a well-lit area, switch to Centre-weighted metering and photograph a portrait at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed. Note how the mode impacts the exposure of the subject versus the background.
3. Find a scene with strong backlighting and use Spot metering to capture a subject in the foreground while keeping ISO 200 fixed and letting the camera adjust aperture.
4. Capture a snowy scene using Matrix metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed. Adjust exposure compensation to +1 EV and observe the differences in exposure.
5. Use Shutter Priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed to photograph a moving subject in bright sunlight. Experiment with Spot metering to ensure the subject is correctly exposed.
6. Shoot in a dimly lit environment using Centre-weighted metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed. Adjust exposure compensation to -1 EV and evaluate the outcome.

Stretch Tasks

- Experiment with mixed lighting conditions, using both Spot and Matrix metering for the same subject and comparing the results.
- Create a series of images using all three metering modes (Matrix, Centre-weighted, Spot) on the same scene to analyze which produces the best exposure.



DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do use the appropriate metering mode based on the lighting conditions.✓ Do adjust exposure compensation when shooting bright or dark scenes.✓ Do verify your exposure with the histogram after taking each shot.✓ Do practice using both Aperture Priority and Shutter Priority modes in varying scenarios.✓ Do take notes on your settings and the results to learn from your experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Don't rely solely on automatic exposure settings without understanding metering modes.✗ Don't ignore the importance of exposure compensation in challenging lighting.✗ Don't forget to check the histogram for highlight clipping.✗ Don't use manual mode for this assignment; focus on priority modes instead.✗ Don't skip practicing with different metering modes to see their effects.

Reflection Questions

- How did using different metering modes change the outcome of your photographs?
- What challenges did you face when adjusting exposure compensation, and how did you overcome them?
- In what scenarios did you find one metering mode significantly better than the others?
- How does understanding metering modes enhance your overall photographic skills?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use Matrix metering for general scenes to get a balanced exposure.
- Use Centre-weighted metering for portraits to emphasize the subject.
- Use Spot metering for high contrast scenes to meter precisely on the subject.
- Adjust exposure compensation by +1 to +2 EV for bright scenes and -1 to -2 EV for dark scenes.
- Use the histogram and highlight warnings to confirm proper exposure.

Creative:

- Experiment with different metering modes to see how they affect the final image.
- Try shooting the same scene with different exposure compensations to understand its impact.
- Capture portraits using Centre-weighted metering to highlight the subject's features.
- Use Spot metering in a high-contrast scene to emphasize the subject against a bright background.
- Explore how changing metering modes affects mood and tone in your images.