



Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding how to use histograms for evaluating exposure in your photographs. Students will learn to interpret histograms and adjust their shooting techniques to achieve optimal exposure using priority modes.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to read and interpret histograms to evaluate exposure.
- Learn to use aperture priority and shutter priority modes effectively for exposure control.
- Develop skills to adjust shooting techniques based on histogram feedback.

Related Reading

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

[What Is Dynamic Range In Photography](#)

[Exposure Bracketing A Guide For Photographers](#)

Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with your camera's histogram display settings.
- Set your camera to either aperture priority or shutter priority mode.
- Fix your ISO at 200 to maintain consistent exposure.
- Identify a location with varying light conditions for practice.
- Ensure your lens is clean and free of obstructions.

Assignment Tasks

1. Set your camera to aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed. Photograph a landscape scene and analyze the histogram for clipping.
2. Use shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed. Capture moving subjects in a park and review the histogram for exposure accuracy.
3. Select an indoor scene with both bright and dark elements. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, and evaluate the histogram to ensure proper exposure.
4. Shoot a series of portraits in varying light conditions using shutter priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed. Compare the histograms to see how exposure changes with lighting.
5. Using aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed, capture a still life arrangement. Adjust the scene's lighting and observe how the histogram responds.
6. Find a scene with both shadows and highlights. Use shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed, capturing the scene and analyzing the histogram for balance.

Stretch Tasks

- Shoot a time-lapse sequence using aperture priority mode, analyzing the histograms for changes in exposure as the light shifts.
- Create a series of images at different apertures but keeping the ISO fixed at 200. Analyze the histograms to see the impact of depth of field on exposure.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do review the histogram after each shot to learn how adjustments affect exposure.
- ✓ Do practice in different lighting conditions to understand how it impacts your histogram.
- ✓ Do use exposure compensation to adjust for tricky lighting situations as indicated by the histogram.
- ✓ Do take notes on each shot's settings and histogram readings for future reference.
- ✓ Do experiment with focal lengths to see how they interact with exposure and histogram readings.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on the camera's auto mode; practice using priority modes instead.
- ✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it's a vital tool for understanding exposure.
- ✗ Don't take shots without checking the histogram, especially in challenging lighting.
- ✗ Don't manually set all exposure variables; focus on using priority settings.
- ✗ Don't forget to adjust your composition even while focusing on histogram readings.

Reflection Questions

- How did your understanding of exposure change after analyzing histograms?
- Which exposure mode did you find more intuitive and why?
- What challenges did you face when interpreting the histogram, and how did you overcome them?
- How can using histograms improve your photography in various lighting conditions?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Understand the shape of the histogram and what it indicates about exposure.
- Learn to adjust settings based on histogram data to avoid clipping highlights or shadows.
- Observe how changing the aperture affects the depth of field and histogram readings.
- Practice using exposure compensation to fine-tune exposure based on histogram feedback.
- Use the camera's built-in tools to assist in evaluating exposure visually.

Creative:

- Experiment with different aperture settings in aperture priority mode to see their effect on the histogram.
- Use shutter priority mode to capture movement and analyze how it affects exposure.
- Explore shooting in different lighting conditions and how it alters your histogram.
- Incorporate creative framing and composition while keeping an eye on the histogram.
- Challenge yourself to capture both high-contrast and low-contrast scenes and evaluate their histograms.