



Overview

This assignment focuses on mastering the exposure triangle by highlighting the relationships between aperture, shutter speed, and ISO while using priority modes. Students will learn to achieve the correct exposure and creatively control depth of field and motion in their photographs.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the concept of the exposure triangle in photography.
- Gain proficiency in using aperture priority and shutter priority modes.
- Learn to evaluate exposure using the histogram and metering modes.

Before You Shoot

- Select a location with varying light conditions to test exposure settings.
- Set your camera ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Familiarize yourself with your camera's metering modes and histogram display.
- Ensure your camera battery is charged and memory card is empty.
- Bring a tripod if shooting in low light or experimenting with long exposures.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set the shutter speed. Focus on a subject with a blurred background to practice depth of field control.
2. Switch to shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed. Capture a moving subject, such as a cyclist or a running dog, ensuring they are sharply in focus.
3. Experiment with aperture priority mode at f/4 in a well-lit environment. Take a series of photos with different subjects at varying distances to observe changes in depth of field.
4. Set your camera to shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed and photograph a scene with motion, like a flowing river, to practice freezing motion.
5. In aperture priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed, capture a landscape scene to achieve maximum depth of field, ensuring both foreground and background are in sharp focus.
6. Use aperture priority mode at f/1.8 with ISO 200 fixed to shoot low-light portraits, allowing the camera to adjust shutter speed while creating a moody atmosphere.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images that showcase the same scene with different aperture settings while keeping ISO at 200, analyzing the effects on depth of field.
- Shoot a fast-paced event like a sports game using shutter priority mode, experimenting with different shutter speeds to find the optimal setting for capturing motion.



DO

- ✓ Do check your histogram to ensure you're capturing the full range of tones.
- ✓ Do experiment with both aperture and shutter priority modes to understand their effects.
- ✓ Do use exposure compensation to fine-tune your shots in challenging lighting.
- ✓ Do practice shooting in various lighting conditions to see how it affects exposure settings.
- ✓ Do take notes on your settings and outcomes for future reference.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on auto mode; practice with priority modes for better control.
- ✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it's essential for understanding exposure.
- ✗ Don't shoot in low light without a tripod if your shutter speed is slow.
- ✗ Don't forget to adjust your metering mode based on the scene's lighting.
- ✗ Don't assume that a correctly exposed image will always look good; consider composition and subject matter.

Reflection Questions

- How does changing the aperture affect the mood of your photographs?
- What challenges did you encounter when using priority modes, and how did you overcome them?
- How did your understanding of exposure change after this assignment?
- What techniques did you find most effective for managing motion in your images?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode to control depth of field while letting the camera set shutter speed.
- Utilize shutter priority mode to capture motion while letting the camera adjust aperture.
- Check your histogram regularly to avoid clipping highlights or shadows.
- Experiment with different metering modes to see how they affect exposure.
- Learn to use exposure compensation to adjust brightness in tricky lighting situations.

Creative:

- Explore the effects of shallow depth of field by shooting portraits in aperture priority mode.
- Capture dynamic scenes, such as moving cars or people, using shutter priority mode.
- Use varying focal lengths to see how they impact depth of field and composition.
- Experiment with different angles and perspectives to enhance your exposure control.
- Incorporate natural elements like backlighting to create mood through exposure.

Related Reading

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

[What Is Exposure In Photography](#)

[What Is Shutter Speed](#)

[What Is Depth Of Field](#)

[What Is Manual Exposure In Photography](#)

[What Is Dynamic Range In Photography](#)