



Overview

This assignment teaches you how to use aperture settings to control depth of field in your photographs, allowing for creative choices in focus and blur. You'll practice isolating subjects and achieving sharp landscapes through deliberate aperture selections.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture settings and depth of field.
- Learn to use aperture priority mode to achieve desired focus effects.
- Experiment with different subject distances to manipulate depth of field.

Related Reading

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

[What Is Depth Of Field](#)

[What Is Aperture In Photography](#)

Before You Shoot

- Select a lens that allows for a wide range of aperture settings.
- Ensure your camera is set to aperture priority mode (A/Av).
- Set your camera's ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Choose a location with varied subjects for depth of field experimentation.
- Bring a tripod for stability when shooting with slower shutter speeds.

Assignment Tasks

1. Using aperture priority mode, set your aperture to f/2.8 and shoot a portrait of a friend, focusing on their eyes to create a shallow depth of field.
2. Set your camera to aperture priority mode at f/8 and photograph a landscape scene, ensuring both the foreground and background are in focus.
3. Choose a subject and gradually change your aperture from f/2.8 to f/11, capturing a series of images to observe the changes in depth of field.
4. Select a close-up subject and shoot at f/4, experimenting with different distances to see how it affects the background blur.
5. Capture a street scene at f/5.6 to highlight a specific element, ensuring that other details remain slightly out of focus.
6. Using aperture priority mode, set your aperture to f/16 and photograph a scene with multiple layers of depth, such as a road leading into the distance.

Stretch Tasks

- Shoot a series of images using different apertures while maintaining the same framing to compare the impact of depth of field on your subject's clarity.
- Create a diptych showcasing one image with a shallow depth of field and another with a deep depth of field, highlighting the differences in focus.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do experiment with various apertures to understand their impact on depth of field.
- ✓ Do focus carefully on your subject to ensure sharpness where intended.
- ✓ Do take notes on the settings used for each shot for future reference.
- ✓ Do review your images to analyze how depth of field affects your compositions.
- ✓ Do practice shooting in different lighting conditions to see how they influence your aperture choices.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't use manual mode for this assignment; focus on aperture priority mode instead.
- ✗ Don't forget to check your focus point to ensure it aligns with your subject.
- ✗ Don't rush your shots; take time to frame your subject and consider depth of field.
- ✗ Don't ignore the background; it plays a crucial role in how depth of field is perceived.
- ✗ Don't assume all scenes require a shallow depth of field; explore both shallow and deep options.

Reflection Questions

- How does changing the aperture affect the story your photograph tells?
- In what scenarios might you prefer a shallow depth of field over a deep one?
- What challenges did you face when trying to control depth of field, and how did you overcome them?
- How can you apply your understanding of depth of field to enhance your future photography projects?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use wider apertures (e.g., f/2.8) for shallow depth of field.
- Use narrower apertures (e.g., f/8 or f/11) for greater depth of field.
- Consider the impact of subject distance on depth of field.
- Utilize the camera's depth of field preview button if available.
- Understand the effects of focal length on depth of field.

Creative:

- Isolate your subject by using a shallow depth of field to create a blurred background.
- Experiment with different compositions to see how depth of field affects storytelling.
- Incorporate foreground elements to enhance depth perception in landscapes.
- Try shooting a portrait with the subject's eye in focus using a shallow depth of field.
- Explore the use of leading lines with a greater depth of field to draw attention to the subject.