



Overview

This assignment teaches you how to manipulate aperture settings to control depth of field in your photography, allowing you to isolate subjects or create expansive landscapes. You'll gain hands-on experience with how aperture affects sharpness and focus in your images.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture and depth of field.
- Learn how to use aperture priority mode to achieve desired depth of field effects.
- Experiment with different focal lengths and subject distances to see their impact on 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	
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Before You Shoot

- Choose a location with a clear subject and background.
- Select a lens that allows for a range of apertures.
- Set your camera to aperture priority mode.
- Fix your ISO to 200.
- Familiarize yourself with the composition of your scene.

Assignment Tasks

1. Using aperture priority mode, set your aperture to f/2.8 and photograph a portrait, focusing on the subject's eyes while blurring the background.
2. Set your camera to aperture priority mode at f/8 and capture a landscape scene, ensuring both the foreground and background are in sharp focus.
3. Using a zoom lens, shoot at 50mm with an aperture of f/4, then zoom in to 100mm and shoot again at the same aperture, comparing the depth of field in both images.
4. Find a subject in motion (like a pet or a child) and set your camera to shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera choose the aperture. Observe how this affects background blur.
5. Set your aperture to f/16 while shooting a landscape scene, and focus on the nearest point of interest to achieve maximum depth of field.
6. Experiment with hyperfocal focusing by setting your aperture to f/11 and focusing at the hyperfocal distance for a landscape shot.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images that progressively show changes in depth of field by using apertures from f/1.4 to f/16 on the same subject.
- Combine shallow and deep depth of field in a single image by focusing on a subject in the foreground at f/2.8 while ensuring background elements are visible.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do experiment with different apertures to see their effect on depth of field.
- ✓ Do pay attention to your subject distance when adjusting your aperture.
- ✓ Do keep your ISO fixed at 200 to maintain consistency across your shots.
- ✓ Do use a tripod for landscape shots to prevent camera shake at smaller apertures.
- ✓ Do review your images critically to understand how depth of field affects the overall composition.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't forget to set your camera to aperture priority mode for depth of field control.
- ✗ Don't use automatic mode if you want to control your aperture settings.
- ✗ Don't shoot without checking how your background is interacting with your subject.
- ✗ Don't limit yourself to traditional depth of field rules; experiment with unconventional settings.
- ✗ Don't neglect the importance of lighting, as it affects depth of field perception.

Reflection Questions

- How did changing the aperture affect the sharpness of your images?
- What differences did you notice when using different focal lengths with the same aperture?
- How does the concept of hyperfocal distance change your approach to landscape photography?
- In what scenarios would you prefer shallow depth of field over deep depth of field?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use wide apertures (e.g., f/2.8 or wider) for shallow depth of field.
- Use narrow apertures (e.g., f/11 or smaller) for deep depth of field.
- Experiment with the distance from your subject to affect depth of field.
- Use longer focal lengths to compress the background and enhance shallow depth of field.
- Understand hyperfocal distance to maximize sharpness in landscapes.

Creative:

- Isolate your subject by using a shallow depth of field to create a dreamy effect.
- Incorporate foreground elements with a wide aperture for artistic framing.
- Use deep depth of field to tell a story in landscape photography.
- Capture subjects in crowded environments while maintaining a sharp focus on the primary subject.
- Experiment with different backgrounds to see how they affect your depth of field.