



Overview

This assignment teaches photographers how to master the exposure triangle by effectively using aperture or shutter priority modes while maintaining a fixed ISO. By understanding how these elements interact, students will enhance their ability to control brightness, detail, and mood in their photography.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture, shutter speed, and ISO in exposure.
- Learn to utilize aperture and shutter priority modes for creative control.
- Develop skills to analyze and interpret histograms and metering modes.

Before You Shoot

- Ensure your camera is set to Aperture Priority (A/Av) or Shutter Priority (S/Tv) mode.
- Set your ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Familiarize yourself with the camera's histogram and metering options.
- Choose a location with varied lighting conditions to practice exposure settings.
- Prepare your lens and ensure it is clean for optimal image quality.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set shutter speed while photographing a subject in a well-lit environment.
2. Use shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust aperture to capture a moving object, such as a cyclist or a pet.
3. Capture a landscape scene at dusk using aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera select shutter speed to maintain proper exposure.
4. Photograph a scene in bright sunlight using shutter priority mode at 1/1000s with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust aperture to maintain exposure.
5. Create a series of images at different apertures (e.g., f/2.8, f/4, f/5.6) in aperture priority mode while keeping ISO at 200 fixed, observing the changes in depth of field.
6. Capture a night scene using shutter priority mode at 1/30s with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to choose the aperture to achieve an optimal exposure.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a time-lapse series of photos using shutter priority mode to capture motion over time, adjusting the shutter speed based on the lighting conditions.
- Experiment with bracketing exposures in aperture priority mode to capture a high dynamic range scene, ensuring ISO is kept constant at 200.



DO

- ✓ Do check your histogram after each shot to ensure proper exposure.
- ✓ Do practice using exposure compensation to adjust bright or dark scenes.
- ✓ Do experiment with different metering modes to see how they affect your exposure.
- ✓ Do switch between aperture and shutter priority modes based on your creative needs.
- ✓ Do analyze the depth of field in your images to understand the impact of your chosen aperture.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on auto mode; practice using priority modes for better control.
- ✗ Don't forget to check your ISO setting before shooting in varying light conditions.
- ✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it is essential for avoiding clipped highlights and shadows.
- ✗ Don't shoot in manual mode without fully understanding the exposure triangle.
- ✗ Don't hesitate to adjust your settings based on the scene's lighting conditions.

Reflection Questions

- How did using aperture or shutter priority modes change your approach to capturing images?
- What challenges did you encounter when trying to maintain proper exposure?
- How does the choice of aperture affect the mood and story of your photograph?
- In what situations do you find one priority mode more beneficial than the other?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use the histogram to check for clipping in highlights and shadows.
- Experiment with different aperture settings to see how they affect depth of field.
- Adjust your shutter speed in Shutter Priority mode to capture motion.
- Test different metering modes (spot, center-weighted, matrix) to see their impact on exposure.
- Practice using exposure compensation to fine-tune your exposure settings.

Creative:

- Capture a portrait using a wide aperture to create a blurred background.
- Photograph moving subjects using a fast shutter speed to freeze the action.
- Experiment with different times of day to see how natural light impacts exposure.
- Incorporate leading lines or natural frames in your composition while controlling exposure.
- Use the exposure triangle to convey mood—bright settings for happiness, darker for drama.

Related Reading

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

What Is Exposure In Photography	What Is Iso In Photography	What Is Shutter Speed
What Is Depth Of Field	What Is Manual Exposure In Photography	What Is Dynamic Range In Photography