



Overview

This assignment teaches photographers how to master the exposure triangle by focusing on the relationship between aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. Participants will learn to use aperture or shutter priority modes to control depth of field and motion, ultimately enhancing their photographic storytelling.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to effectively use aperture priority and shutter priority modes.
- Learn to set a fixed ISO value and allow the camera to automatically adjust the other variable.
- Gain skills in evaluating exposure through metering and histogram checks.

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

Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with your camera's aperture and shutter priority modes.
- Set your camera's ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Prepare a range of subjects that demonstrate depth of field and motion.
- Have a notebook or digital device ready to log your settings and observations.
- Ensure your camera battery is fully charged and you have sufficient memory space.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set the shutter speed; photograph a portrait subject to achieve a shallow depth of field.
2. Utilize shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed; capture a moving subject, such as a person running, to freeze the motion effectively.
3. Set your camera to aperture priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera select the shutter speed; photograph a landscape scene to ensure everything is in focus.
4. Incorporate exposure compensation while using shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed; photograph a bright outdoor scene to avoid overexposure.
5. Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed; capture images of a flower garden, focusing on one flower while blurring the background.
6. Set your camera to shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed; photograph a busy street scene to create motion blur in the passing cars.

Stretch Tasks

- Challenge yourself by photographing the same scene at different times of day using aperture priority mode, adjusting the aperture and observing changes in exposure and mood.
- Create a series of images that demonstrate different shutter speeds (e.g., 1/30s, 1/125s, 1/1000s) using shutter priority mode, and analyze the impact on motion depiction.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do check your histogram after taking photos to ensure appropriate exposure levels.
- ✓ Do experiment with various subjects to see how aperture affects depth of field.
- ✓ Do take notes on your settings and results to track your progress.
- ✓ Do adjust your metering mode to see how it influences exposure.
- ✓ Do practice under different lighting conditions to enhance your versatility.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't set all three exposure variables manually; use priority modes instead.
- ✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it's essential for evaluating your exposure.
- ✗ Don't be afraid to use exposure compensation for tricky lighting situations.
- ✗ Don't forget to review your images after shooting to learn from your results.
- ✗ Don't limit yourself to a single type of subject; practice with a variety.

Reflection Questions

- How did using aperture priority mode change your approach to depth of field?
- What challenges did you face when capturing motion with shutter priority mode?
- How did fixed ISO influence your exposure outcomes in different lighting scenarios?
- In what ways did the histogram help you improve your exposure decisions?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use the histogram to evaluate exposure and avoid clipped highlights and shadows.
- Practice different metering modes to see how they affect exposure.
- Experiment with different aperture settings to observe changes in depth of field.
- Check shutter speed adjustments made by the camera when using aperture priority mode.
- Use exposure compensation to correct for challenging lighting conditions.

Creative:

- Experiment with wide apertures for portraits to create a blurred background.
- Use narrow apertures to achieve sharp focus across landscapes.
- Capture moving subjects using a fast shutter speed to freeze action.
- Explore the mood created by different exposure settings in various lighting conditions.
- Incorporate creative framing techniques while adjusting your exposure settings.