

Enya Illegems

Photography

Photography is a special form of art to capture something in a moment, or paint a picture in your mind. There are multiple types of photography people use, with lots of steps that go into it. Each photographer has their own way of doing things, or what they want to capture. There are different components and steps to creating a photo. You need to know how to use a camera, how to use the settings, and what you want to capture. and most of the time your boss will tell you how they thought of the image.

All brands make cameras differently, but they all have the same purpose. Each camera will come with a different lens, and some might come with more settings or with less buttons depending on the brand and type of camera. Chris Gatcum, in his book *The Beginner's Photography Guide*, says that the most used and preferred cameras are the DSLR "digital single lens reflex." The reason



for its popularity is due to the viewing system which uses a pentaprism (a five-sided glass prism) to rotate the image coming through the lens (16). Suzan (Suzie) Seay, my mentor, says you hold the camera with both hands and always have the strap on your

camera and around you, so just in case you're clumsy like me you won't drop it. Gatum also says that each button has a specific use and may slightly vary depending on the size of the camera (17).

- 1 Shutter-release button
- 2 Autofocus (AF) assist lamp
- 3 Pop-up flash
- 4 Mode dial
- 5 Lens (see p.32 for anatomy)
- 6 Lens release button
- 7 Autofocus button
- 8 Microphone
- 9 On/Off switch
- 10 Hand grip



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| 1 Viewfinder | 7 Info button |
| 2 Hot shoe (for mounting a flash) | 8 LCD screen |
| 3 Movie mode/record button | 9 Control wheel |
| 4 Autofocus (AF) activation button | 10 Exposure/focus-lock button |
| 5 Mode dial | 11 AF point selection button |
| 6 Menu button | 12 Playback zoom button |

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| 13 Playback button | 19 Live View button |
| 14 Quick Control button | 20 White balance button |
| 15 Set/OK button | 21 Creative Photo button |
| 16 Control pad | 22 Rating button |
| 17 Lock | 23 Shooting info button |
| 18 Delete button | |

(Gatcum 16-19)

Suzie also recommends you always make sure you keep your camera clean so it doesn't break. You mostly need to keep the lens free from dust and sand, otherwise it won't work as well. When you're not using it put the lens cap on, and put it back in its case so it doesn't break or get lost.

What's the difference between the shutter speed, and the aperture? Gatum states the shutter speed is the duration that allows light to come in. All cameras have a shutter, which may be either electronic, turning the sensor's light-reading capability on or off, or a mechanical unit that physically opens and closes in front of the camera's sensor to allow in or shut out light. The aperture is used to decide how much light gets through the lens to give it more or less exposure. The aperture is almost like a hole or "iris" in the camera's lens that allows light to pass through to the sensor. All cameras today, including compacts and many mobile phones, have a variable aperture, so you can set the size of the hole precisely to match the prevailing light conditions (44-47).

How do you get the image you want? Suzie suggests trying to take your picture from different perspectives with the same object to get a feel for it and find creative ways to take pictures. It will give you more ideas, and it's just fun to play around. It's better to put your main point a little to the left or right to make it stand out and look more interesting. Do you want a light color, are there shadows, are the details still there? I learned from Suzie that sometimes if there is too much light the details of your photo will get lost. Try to play around with the light or go back later to edit and make the details stand out. I think that sometimes making an image blurred makes it unique and interesting to look at. Suzie also says use zooming effects to get a closer look on your subject, but step back to get what's around the subject. When using close up photography, exaggerate the size of nearby subjects, and also exaggerate any differences in distance or position between subjects.

What makes a photo appealing to look at and how do they do it? Try to take your picture from different perspectives, and move them to get a little bit of a different background with the same object to get a feel for how you want to present it. Just find creative ways to take pictures that make you happy. It doesn't matter what others think; it matters what you think. Sometimes, the picture doesn't turn out how you want it, but in the end it can turn out even better than what you first wanted, so just go with it. Other times, it might not turn out right, but that's what learning is about. Suzie told me that for lots of photographers, editing is one of the most fun parts of taking a photo. According to Barbara London and Jim Stone, editing all depends on how you want your photo to come out. Maybe you want to bring more light or color into a picture, or maybe you make something stand out more. If your picture loses details, here's your chance to fix it. You need to find an editing site or program that fits and works for you because each site is a little different. With editing you can play around as much as you want. This gives you a chance to be very creative with your work and makes it stand out (104-105). In my opinion you need to make sure you don't copy people's work: you can get ideas from other photographers, but you should be your own individual. Most importantly, don't lie about your photo. With editing, you can do lots of things and sometimes people edit in things that are not true, which can cause problems later.

I had a lot of fun learning about all the different components of photography. It was challenging at first to find something I would be interested in doing because I had lots of ideas. In the end I'm glad with what I chose. For the artistic portion, I decided to go with some sort of collage, so I picked out some of my favorite pictures. I used a black poster board, a printer, pens and pencils, a couple different types of cameras, photo paper, and normal paper. My process was basically just to walk around to find things that were interesting to me, and things that caught my attention. I started out with quite a few pictures but I ended up using 11 of my favorite photos and I also drew a picture of a camera. For the service work it was pretty easy for me to find something

because my tutor has a non-profit so I helped out with that. Miss Eliana's non profit is to help kids with their reading and math skills. For the non-profit I took pictures of the kids reading to the animals. I also helped set up, and helped reading with the kids, and helped make a book bag for the kids she was working with. It's a great program for children and their parents who have trouble teaching their kids. It helped me a lot because I have trouble with school too, and her methods are really good. Miss Eliana's non-profit is called PATH which stands for Personal Accountability to Happiness. When I was deciding what to do I thought of all the things that I would have to do so I chose to do something I like and didn't know a lot about.

A Washington Post article, "Dorothea Lange used photography to make an ugly world beautiful," tells us about one of the most known American photographers during the Great Depression. Dorothea would take photos to document the emotional and physical conditions of the poor migrant workers. Dorothea would not only take beautiful photos, but the captions she put with her photos made cultural conversations. One of the most known photos is "Migrant Mother," which is now in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City with lots of other photos from Dorothea.

All these steps make up the final picture you wanted. After you do it for a while, it will become easier. If it turned out different than how you originally thought, that's ok. All that matters is that you're happy with the outcome, and that you had fun.

Works Cited

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