

Digital SLR Camera

Use Photography to enhance your life stories

Caroline Rae Strickland

Fort Hays State University

December 2015

Digital SLR Camera

Abstract

In this essay I am cracking down on the following elements and terms of what makes the quality of a picture, such as Light, Exposure, Composition, angle of view and stopping action. I will talk about the operation of a digital SLR camera. How an image is recorded when you take a picture and where that information is stored and retrieved. I will then go into depth of image editing software allows you to make adjustment and enhance images. I then would like to end how these editing abilities may affect a person level of trust in the media.

Digital SLR Camera

Picture... what is a picture? To some it's a snapshot of life, a memory holder, a selfie, a piece of art. What a picture is to you may not be what a picture is to me and that's what makes a single image so amazing. You've always heard a picture is a 1000 words. So let's dissect what kind of words make up these pictures we treasure.

So when you take a picture there are some helpful aspects to consider for instant we will start of by explaining the value of Light and when it's best to use natural light, ambient or flash. In top 3 reasons to use natural light in photography you have soft subtle light, Directional side light and Flood area with light. Using a soft light gives you a very peaceful look on your subject. It's exactly what the name is "soft".

"Directional side light is a form of natural light that can add mystery to your photographs." Using directional side lighting you can hide or revile whatever it is you want. You're almost playing with shadows at the same time and using them for your advantage to give depth and drama in your photography. Lastly you have flood area with light, this moths means your shadows will become very sharp and everything in your photo will contract terminality with your dark and whites. Amazingly using a flash with help balance out a shot with a flood of light in it. Best used when shooting people's faces on sunny days.

Digital SLR Camera

Next up is ambient. I think ambient photography is absolutely beautiful but what does ambient lighting actually mean? Adorama defines ambient as “light that exists in a scene.” In other terms natural lighting that was already present before you got there, pre-existing light if you will. So what makes this so special? Knowing what kind of exposure you’re working with allows you the opportunity to adjust your camera’s aperture, shutter speed or ISO for the perfect picture. Ambient light almost gives you something to measure so you can get the best quality out of your camera for your photo.

Flash, no not the super hero who runs really fast but that bright light you use on your camera from time to time. If you ask me there is no right or wrong reason to use a flash, it all depends on your style that is. Although there are benefits to using flash at the right moment. Generally most people will use a flash for low light environments, places like dark fields or rooms with only candle lights. Using a flash is a great way to bring in light and put the focus on your main subject.

You might have read me mention exposure a few times. When I say exposure there are certain things to consider. Such as aperture, shutter speed and depth of field. Aperture as mentioned previously with lighting has to do with how the opening of your lens. Much like the pupil in your eye, the bigger your pupil or lens in this matter the more the light can get in and the smaller your pupil or lens the less light can come in. Aperture is also measured in f-stops. Like $f/2.8, f/4, f/5.6, f/8, f/22$ and so on. Just so you’re aware $f/2.8$ is bigger than $f/22$ as far as the opening measurement on your lens.

Digital SLR Camera

Now shutter speed is the measurement of time your lens or shutter is open. So this measure out how long or how short light will enter your camera. You can take advantage of your shutter speed when it comes to your subject moving. Depending on your shutter speed you're expressing either a freezing motion or a blur motion. Depth of field is a great way to add some flare to your pictures. The best way I know how to explain depth of field is to understand your camera can focus on a certain point and everything else around that point is blurred.

Composition, best made up of the rule of thirds, leading line, framing and depth. The point of using a rule of thirds is to make the image more pleasing to the viewer's eye. You can do this by breaking up your view point into thirds. The idea is to create a more balanced photo. You can easily do this by placing your subject at the point of focus at an intersecting point. Leading lines are a nice way to create a path for your viewer's eye. This usually starts from the bottom guiding the viewer's eyes upwards and inwards.

Framing is the next leading feature and a detail I feel is often overlooked but an important detail. There are a millions ways to framing a shot it all depends on what kind of look you're going for. Some example of framing would be horizontal which is great for landscape, vertical framing for architecture. These are just a handful of technics you can use for framing your perfect shot. As mentioned as before depth is a since of style and a style that can be calculated by focal length, focus distance to percentage of depth of field. Cambridge in color has a great scale to go off of.

Angle of view defined by the dictionary is "the angle formed at a nodal point of a lens by the intersection of two lines drawn from the opposite ends of an image produced by the lens" in simpler terms is how much our lens can see. Stopping action is almost exactly what it sounds. You freeze the action in your photo with no blur.

Digital SLR Camera

The basic parts of a DSLR are: following the diagram on all things photography the front has lens alignment, flash, lens release, depths of field preview, lens contacts, mirror, grip, shutter release button, and focus assist beam. The back has a, viewfinder, diopter adjustment, rubber eye cup, joystick dial, exposure lock/zoom button, focus point, set button, on/off button, erase, play, jump and menu button. Unlike camera back in the day that used film a dslr camera can record images in sd cards or memory cards digitally. From my own personal experience you can retrieve these images from your memory card using a computer to which will read what's on your memory card.

Now onto the amazing world of editing! It doesn't much matter what form of platform you use to edit photos, most all have the same ability to adjust picture sizes, exposure, colors and more. Sometimes these edits are very helpful in post to make your picture perfect but in our culture there are some drawbacks into editing a photo too much. Why you may ask, there are many aspects of editing a person that can give an unrealistic perspective. This is often found with super models and young girls trying to imitate their bodies to extreme measures. The fact that these edits give a false hood of achievability I feel that people should be educated by what is real and what is edited so that people won't draw false conclusions over what they are observing.

Reference

3 Reasons to Use Natural Light in Photography. (2015). Retrieved November 28, 2015, from <http://www.steves-digicams.com/knowledge-center/how-tos/photography-techniques/3-reasons-to-use-natural-light-in-photography.html#b>

FAQ: What is Ambient Light? (2015). Retrieved November 28, 2015, from <http://www.adorama.com/alc/0012936/article/FAQ-What-is-Ambient-Light>

TUTORIALS: DEPTH OF FIELD. (n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2015, from <http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/depth-of-field.htm>

(n.d.). Retrieved November 28, 2015, from <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/angle-of-view>

The Digital SLR (Mini Course at End). (2013, December 18). Retrieved November 28, 2015, from <http://www.all-things-photography.com/digital-slr/>