

# Paul's Photo, Inc.

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## Basic Photography Tip Sheet 4

**The LIGHT:** The essence of photography. Photography is *WRITING WITH LIGHT*.

1. See the light to create stunning images.
2. Study the light by looking at the shadows.

**Quantity of Light:** How much light? The amount of light is controlled by the exposure.

**Quality of Light** What is the light source? **Size** controls the harshness or softness of shadow.

**HARSH LIGHT** Strong shadows from a direct source.

- High contrast light from bright sunshine. Bright blue skies.
- Great light for scenics, and grand landscapes.
- Harsh shadows provide strong shadows. Watch the exposure with dark shadows.

**SOFT LIGHT** Soft shadows from a diffuse source.

- Low contrast light from hazy sunshine or shade. The source is now the clouds!
- Perfect light for details, close-ups, and people photos.
- Softer contrast allows you to see into the shadows.

**|Remember... Quality of Light is on a continuum.... From hard shadow to no shadow.**

**Direction of Light** Where is the source of the light in relation to the subject and camera?

**FRONT LIGHT** Stark, flat lighting from the front. "Kodak Light" with the sun over your shoulder.

- Late morning, early afternoon light.
- Great light for scenics, and pictorial images. Simple light to expose.
- Lack of visible shadows create bright colored, uniform light.

**TOP LIGHT** Stark light from the top. Shadows are short and straight down.

- Mid day light.
- Some scenics and general images are good during the day. Otherwise have a beer and relax.
- Harsh shadows make portraits and details difficult. Watch exposure of shadows.

**SIDE LIGHT** Strong light streaming across the subject. Dramatic long horizontal shadows.

- Early morning and late afternoon light.
- Great for details, textures, and feelings of light moving across the subject.
- Combination of shadows and light make exposure more difficult. Expose for the bright light.

**BACKLIGHT** Shoot into the light. Watch the light fall around the subject in full shadow.

- Take side light and move to the side.
- Dramatic portraits and details. Simple subjects work best.
- Expose for the subject to create "rim light" effect, expose for sunlight for silhouette.

**|Remember... Direction of light is on a continuum from top to front to side to back.**

**Color of the Light:** What type of source is emitting the light?

**DAYLIGHT** Light from normal sunlight or electronic flash. 5500' K

**GOLDEN HOUR** Sunlight 1 hour before sunset or 1 hour after sunrise. 4000' K.

- Beautifully warm light which produces the finest photographs in the world. The Photo Zone.
- Use 81B filter to simulate, 82B to correct.

**TUNGSTEN** Light from incandescent bulbs. Indoor light produces orange results. 3200' K.

- Use 85B filter to simulate, 80B to correct.

**FLUORESCENT** Light from fluorescent tubes. Produces green or purple results.

- Use FLD filter (or CC 40M) to correct for Daylight tubes.

- Use FLW filter to correct for Cool White tubes.

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Basic Photography  
Assignment 4

## Basic Photography Assignments

- Spend approximately **two hours** on a **photowalk** on the location of your choice.
- **Prepare** ahead of time by selecting a good location, knowing the assignment and your equipment.
- **Practice** the photographic techniques learned in class. Show yourself and the class your technique and creativity.
- Your assignment may be returned as 8x10 mounted print or 35mm slide.
- To make **color slides**: Choose Agfa, Fuji or Kodak **E-6 process** 35mm slide film.
- Return the film for processing to Paul's Photo (or any other quality E6 lab) for processing. If you wish, use Paul's night film drop 24 hours a day. Retrieve your film and edit the results.
- Place the assigned slides in the tray before the start of class next week.
- Please only show slides that were shot this week to complete the assignment.
- Good Luck and happy shooting.

Mark Comon

## Assignment 4.

Use your 35mm camera to creatively practice the techniques learned in weeks 1, 2, 3 and 4. See the light and photograph creatively. Remember to record the light and shadow, create exposures and compositions while completing the assignment. Think about the end photograph, the subject and the technique.

Learn to **See the Light**. Enjoy the **Beauty of the Light**.

Look at the quality of the light and photograph appropriate subjects according to the light. Use **Harsh Light** for scenics, **Soft Light** for close-ups & people and **North Light** for portraits.

1. Photograph landscape image under **Harsh Light**.
  2. Capture a beautiful portrait under **Soft Light**.
  3. Shoot a stunning **Backlight**. Choose to meter the translucent or opaque subject.
  4. Share the drama of a **Side Light** image.
- Bring to class with you next week **FOUR images**. Show your examples creatively illustrating your techniques for capturing the light. Shoot for harsh light, soft light, side light, and backlight. Don't forget to combine the lessons from weeks one thru three in the assignment this week.
  - Complete the assignment. We are all here to learn and improve!