

# Paul's Photo, Inc.

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## Basic Photography Tip Sheet 5

**FLASH:** Pulse of light which is portable and use for indoor shooting, fill-in and effects.

**Synch Speed.** Highest shutter speed your camera allows you to use for flash.

**Guide Number** is the power rating of the flash. GN= distance x f-stop. Buy a flash with 100+GN.

**The Inverse Square Law.** Light "falls off" at a constant rate.  $1/\text{distance} \times \text{distance}$

flash to subject distance    **2' 2.8' 4' 5.6' 8' 11' 16' 22' 32'**

quantity of light                    1x 1/2 1/4 1/8 1/16 1/32 1/64 1/128 1/256

Increase the flash to subject distance and illumination area to increase the depth of light.

Increase the size of the light source to soften the light.

**Bounce Flash** makes the ceiling the source. Effective distance = (flash to ceiling to subject) x 2

**Pocket Bouncer** is a great light softener for portraits and family photos. Use at 10 feet or less.

**Umbrella.** Most effective light modifier is best used with studio flash.

**Fill-In Flash** allows us to add flash light to the daylight and reduce contrast while eliminating shadows from the scene. The single greatest improvement in modern photography!

- **Modern cameras** offer simple fill flash in P mode. Simply **point and shoot with flash ON.**
  - Effective automatic fill flash requires comparative (matrix) metering, high flash synch speed (1/250 preferred) and 100+ GN flash.
  - Manual flash cameras make it a little more difficult...
1. Set the camera to the **flash synch speed.** Determine the **f-stop** for the proper daylight exposure.
  2. Match the **flash output** to the f-stop. Adjust the auto setting, TTL setting or distance.

Use **Slow Flash Synch** or Night Flash for people in the foreground and ambient light background.

Eliminate **Red Eye.** Move the flash off-camera, increase the ambient light level or look away from lens.

**FOCUS:** Control the subject of the image through sharpness. Create the feeling of depth in the image by controlling the amount and point of focus. What is in focus is the subject.

**Depth of Field** is the amount of focus in the scene. Controlled by the lens opening, lens and subject to background distance. The greater the lens opening (2 or 2.8) the less the depth of field, the smaller the lens opening (16 or 22) the greater the depth of field.

**Focus Controls** the subject of interest. Determine the amount of focus according to the subject.

**Narrow Focus** limits the subject and amount of focus. Use a wide open aperture (2 or 2.8).

- Critical focus is imperative. Only the focus point will be sharp.
- Isolates the subject from the background by throwing it out of focus.
- Great for portraits.

**Medium Focus** provides sharp subject and recognizable background. Medium aperture (5.6 or 8).

- Relationship between subject and moderately out of focus (but recognizable) background.
- Subject in sharp focus, background adds information or spice to the image.
- Details, people, action shooting.

**Deep Focus** allows almost universal focus. Use a closed aperture (16 or 22).

- Foreground, middle-ground and background in sharp focus.
- Universal focus makes the entire image the subject.
- Landscapes, scenics, and the "Big Picture" need universal focus.

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## Basic Photography Assignment 5

### 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.

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**Assignment 5.** Use your 35mm camera to creatively practice the techniques learned in the first five weeks. Practice the techniques learned tonight to control the focus and the image. 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.

Focus on your subject. Focus on great photographs.  
Be creative and have photographic vision.

- 1.** Use your **flash to reduce shadows** on an outdoor portrait.
  - 2.** Shoot an image that demands a **narrow focus**. Show us the importance of your subject with focus.
  - 3.** Capture an image with a sharp foreground and slightly out of focus background with **medium focus**.
  - 4.** Everything is the subject. Shoot a **deep focus** image.
- Bring to class with you next week **FOUR images**. Show your examples creatively illustrating your techniques for capturing flash and focus. Don't forget to combine the lessons from weeks one thru four in the assignment this week.
  - Be photographers and see photographs. Use your new tools to create stunning images.